FREE

The Sunset Beacon

Serving the Sunset and Parkside Districts Since 1991 | June 2023 | RichmondSunsetNews.com

Changes To Six Sunset Roads Proposed

By Thomas K. Pendergast

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) is set to roll out big changes for six roadways in the Sunset District this summer as part of the Lincoln Way Quick-Build and Sunset Neighborways projects.

The Neighborways project will include:

- 34th and 41st avenues between Lincoln Way and Vicente Street.
- Kirkham Street between La Playa Street and 19th Avenue.
- Ortega Street between 47th and 19th avenues.
- Vicente Street between 46th and 19th avenues.

Neighborways are residential streets designed to prioritize people walking and bicycling.

The Sunset already has one Neighborways street on 20th Avenue.

"They are streets that are designed with people walking and people biking in mind, but they do not prohibit vehicle access," the agency's Senior Transportation Planner Brian Liang told members of the Sunset Heights Association of Responsible People (SHARP) on a Zoom meeting.

Liang said that during the agency's community outreach sessions, they found support for traffic safety improvements for each of the proposed Neighborways.

He said the top concerns were related to improving safety, especially around schools in the neighborhood, plus traffic intersection conflicts and vehicle speeds. The community cited fast cars as a traffic safety issue.

Continued on page 15

A Place Women Artists Can Feel at Home

Member artist Mary Albert of Glass Vox (Instagram: @glassvoxbyhand) stands next to a couple of her creations at a recent show at the San Francisco Women Artists Gallery (SFWA) in the Inner Sunset. SFWA is a nonprofit that was founded in 1887 as the "Sketch Club." Story on page 13. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

Laguna Honda Receives 'Final' Patient Transfer Extension

By Thomas K. Pendergast

For the third time in a year, regulatory authorities granted Laguna Honda Hospital a pause in transferring out all of its patients, but with a warning that this will be the last time it will receive an extension.

They now have until Sept. 19 to rectify the deficiencies in health and safety processes.

"Laguna Honda will receive no additional pauses on any aspect of the implementation of its Revised Closure Plan, including transfer and discharge obligations, or any further extension of federal payments," James Bossenmeyer stated in a May 18 letter on behalf of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), which is under the U.S. Health and Human Services Department.

The hospital has not lost its license, but most patients there are covered by Medicare and Medicaid. Both programs terminated the hospital's participation in April 2022 after CMS decertified it because of deficiencies in safety protocols, improper hygiene practices by the staff and two nearly fatal overdoses from illegal drugs brought into the hospital by patients.

The CMS did, however, commit to giving the hospital financial help in relocating approximately 670 patients by mid-September, 2022.

Coincidentally, the 156-year-old hospital located on a 62-acre campus will be applying for recertification, which is a lengthy process involving multiple surveys.

The hospital transferred 41 patients to other skilled nursing facilities (SNF) and discharged an additional 16 residents. Of those, 12 people died within weeks of being transferred or discharged, so federal and state regulators temporarily paused all patient transfers and discharges.

San Francisco sued the feds for failing to provide adequate time to repeal the original citations. The City and CMS agreed in July 2022 to continue pausing all transfers until Feb. 2.

As part of this settlement, CMS extended Medicare and Medicaid payments for services through Nov. 13, contingent upon the hospital making health and safety improvements.

Continued on page 14

Works by Photographer Ansel Adams on Display at de Young

By Noma Faingold

The majestic nature photography of San Francisco native Ansel Adams can be seen on postcards, wall calendars, prints and posters.

One of his most widely viewed shots shows Yosemite when it was virtually untouched by humans, where shadows and moonlight hit the face of Half Dome for maximum drama. By contrast, his 1932 panoramic landscape of the cloud-covered expanse, before the Golden Gate Bridge was built, has a surreal appearance.

His idealistic vision, precision, technical acumen and his perfectionism set a standard for black-and-white scenic art photography.

When Karen Haas, Lane Curator of Photographs at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, was tasked with creating a new Adams exhibition at San Francisco's de Young Museum, she wanted to present the ubiquitous work of Adams (1902-1984) in a present-day context.

"I didn't want to do a straight Ansel Adams show," said Haas, who oversees a collection of 450 Adams photos at MFABoston. "I knew there were pressing issues that concerned him, that concern me, that concern all of us."

The de Young exhibition, "Ansel Adams in Our Time,"

Continued on page 5

Visitors admire pictures in the "Adams in the American Southwest" section of the "Ansel Adams in Our Time" exhibition at the de Young Museum. *Photo by Noma Faingold.*

INSIDE

Supportive Housing for Veterans
Page 3

From the Editor — Page 4
Police Blotter — Page 9
Tudors Exhibit at Legion — Page 11
'Want a Totem Pole?' — Page 14

Looking Back

Kinen Carvala

Baseball Fields

Where in San Francisco is baseball still played following rules from 1886?

"Recreation Valley" was the term in the 1893 annual report of the Park Commissioners of San Francisco to the Board of Supervisors used for 20 acres north of Fifth and Sixth avenues near Golden Gate Park's southern edge. The report stated that people started playing football in Recreation Valley before people started playing baseball there, so football players got dibs to play there. The valley had been recently graded and covered in 12 to 18 inches of loamy soil.

The festival grounds of the 1894 California Midwinter International Exposition covered 160 acres in Golden Gate Park, including the recreation ground of Recreation Valley later called "Big Rec." The San Francisco Chronicle reported on Nov. 22, 1893, that the Exposition executive committee aimed to "make the recreation ground famous on the continent" with athletes from every state of the Union invited to compete on cinder tracks for running and bicycles, polo and football grounds and a regulation baseball diamond. A grandstand 300 feet long and 100 feet wide would have seating capacity for 9,000 people.

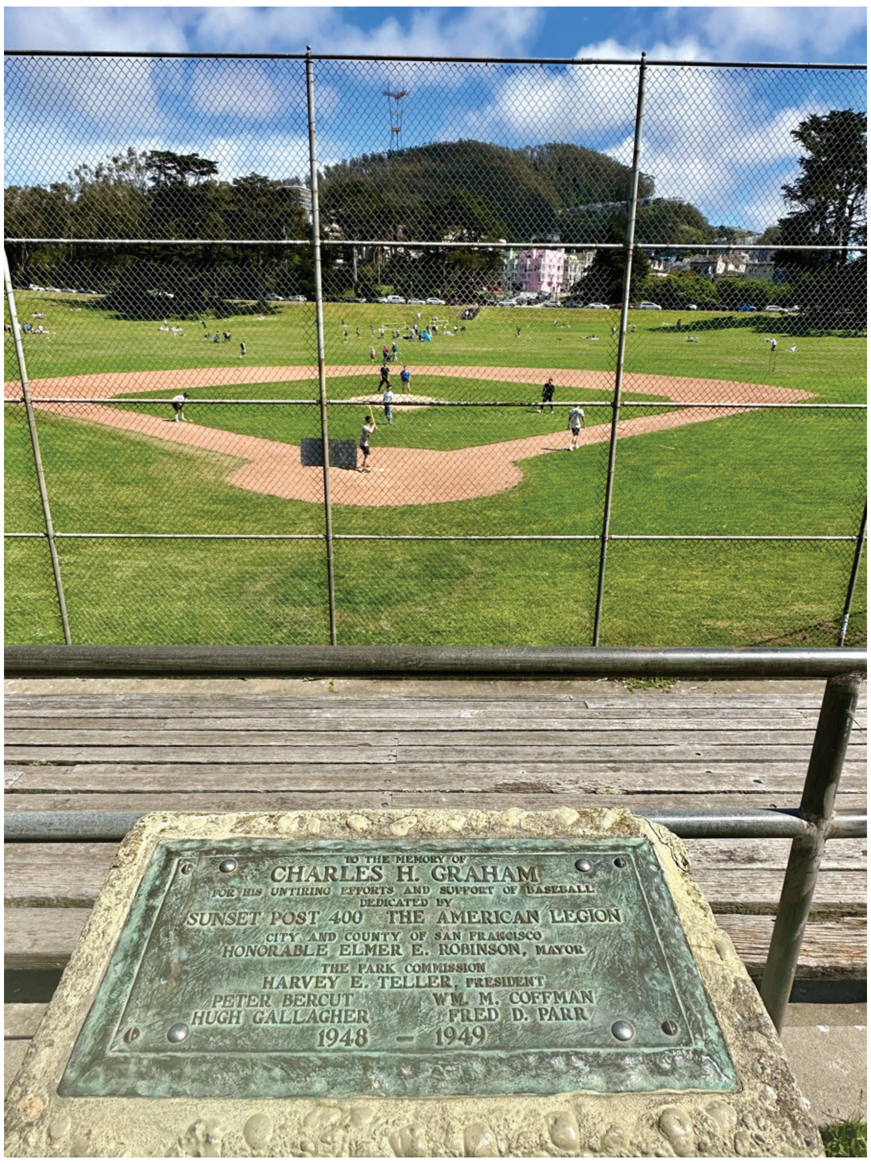
The April 28, 1912 San Francisco Chronicle reported 30 baseball games played in Golden Gate Park the previous Sunday with Big Rec as "one large panorama" of men and boys playing baseball.

Tom FitzGerald reported about a game of "vintage base ball," under 1886 rules, played at Big Rec on April 19, 2009, with the San Francisco Pacifics home team defeating the Fremont Aces 15-5. Spitball pitches were allowed, but wearing sunglasses were not.

Bay Area Vintage Base Ball continues to play by 1886 rules. Sunday, June 4, will be the next day to host vintage matches at Big Rec, starting at noon at both diamonds, according to the online schedule at bavbb.com/2023-schedule.

Though the 1893 Park Commissioners' report anticipated that police would not be necessary on the recreation grounds, the Western Neighborhoods Project (WNP) pointed out that the 1902 minutes of the Park Commission featured a request for "more careful police patrol" on weekends in response to "profane and obscene language indulged in by the ball players in the park on Sundays and weekdays in the presence of ladies and children."

Baseball players at Big Rec ranged



The Big Rec Field's west diamond is dedicated to Charles H. Graham, the president of the Association of Professional Baseball Players of America until he died at age 70 in 1948. *Photos by Michael Durand.*

from self-identified "park bums," who insisted on playing in old clothes, to semi-professional players, according to WNP. The American Legion, a veterans organization founded after World War I, started its own baseball league in 1925 to teach sportsmanship to teenagers.

Charles H. Graham was the unpaid president of the Association of Professional Baseball Players of America for several years until his death in 1948 at age 70, according to the San Francisco Examiner. Graham was varsity catcher at the University of Santa Clara before his graduation in 1898. After playing and managing in the minor leagues for a few years, Graham got a chance to enter the major leagues, playing for the Boston Red Sox in 1906; that year's earthquake and fire in San Francisco spurred Graham to return to the West Coast to care for his ill wife. Later, Graham returned to baseball, eventually becoming the manager and part owner of the San Francisco Seals in 1918, overseeing the Seals becoming a successful team in the Pacific Coast League, winning seven pennants from 1922 to 1946, according to Graham's alma mater.

Big Rec Field's west diamond and a $40,000 concrete grandstand were dedicated to Charles H. Graham on March 27, 1949, with Harvey Teller, president of the park commission and Supervisor John J. Sullivan among those in attendance. Sunset Post 400, a local branch of the American Legion, was also represented at the dedication by Judge Milton Sapiro who named Graham and his friend James J. "Jim" Nealon as "two outstanding men who dedicated themselves to the boys of our community" in organizing sandlot baseball. The plaque for Graham reads:

To the memory of
Charles H. Graham
for his untiring efforts
and support of baseball
dedicated by
Sunset Post 400
The American Legion
City and County of San Francisco
Honorable Elmer E. Robinson,
Mayor
The Park Commission
Harvey E. Teller,
President Peter Bercut
Wm. M. Coffman
Hugh Gallagher
Fred D. Parr
1948-1949

Nealon had his own plaque and east diamond at Big Rec dedicated to him on March 20, 1960. Three-thousand-five-hundred fans watched a game played in his honor with 49 men taking their turn playing for the San Francisco Old Timers during the match and 27 men representing Oakland. Bob Preston of the San Francisco Old Timers Baseball Association was chairman of the Nealon dedication while former state senator Tommy Maloney was master of ceremonies, according to the SF Examiner. The plaque was donated to the City by Supervisor Clarissa Shortall McMahon, daughter of baseball fan and sponsor Judge Edward P. Shortall.

Graham worked with Nealon, president of the Northern California Baseball Managers Association for more than 25 years, in establishing a fund that cared for more than 4,000 injured semi-professional players by 1960. Nealon received offers to play professional baseball but was forced to reject them by his guardian uncle, according to Graham, as reported in the SF Examiner after Nealon's death in 1948. (Jim Nealon is not to be confused with his cousin James Joseph "Joe" Nealon who played baseball in Pittsburgh and the Bay Area before his death in 1910.) The plaque for Nealon reads:

Dedicated to the memory of
James J. Nealon
for years of service to
semi-pro baseball
Old Timers Baseball Assn.
of San Francisco
Northern Calif. Baseball Mgr's
Ass'n San Francisco 1960
Authorized by the S.F. Recreation
and Parks Commission
Plaque donated by Supervisor
Clarissa Shortall McMahon
In honor of her father the late Judge
Edward P. Shortall

The two adjacent baseball diamonds at Big Rec Ball Field are north of an entrance to Golden Gate Park at Seventh Avenue and Lincoln Way. The baseball diamond to the west is dedicated to Charles H. Graham; the plaque is on a raised pedestal on the walkway along the top of the bleachers overlooking home plate. The Lowell High School baseball team uses the west field.

The baseball diamond to the east is dedicated to James J. Nealon; the plaque is on the retaining wall below the fence facing the diamond close to first base. The George Washington High School baseball team uses the east field.

Big Rec is used for more than just baseball. This photo, taken on May 29 (Memorial Day) shows two volleyball courts. There were plenty of people lounging, a man chipping golf balls, frisbees and footballs being tossed, a whiffle-ball game and a corn hole competition. Also, against the rules, dogs on the field.

The Sunset Beacon
June 2023 - Volume 32, No. 12
P.O. Box 16035, S.F., CA 94116 ph: 415-706-6428
Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com
RichmondSunsetNews.com
Publisher and Editor-in-Chief: Michael Durand
Editor: Paul Kozakiewicz **Proofreaders:** Driscoll Callan, Danica Nacionales
Writers: Linda Badgwer, Erin Bank, Noma Faingold, Jonathan Farrell, Judith Kahn, Lana Krouzian, Beth Lederer, Gui Oliveira, Thomas K. Pendergast, Jack Quach, Kate Quach
Photographers: Tyrone Bartoli, Noma Faingold, Thomas K. Pendergast, Kate Quach
Columnists: Kinen Carvala, Supervisor Joel Engardio, Judge Quentin L. Kopp (ret.), John M. Lee, Assemblymember Phil Ting
Cartoonist: Paul Kilduff **Bookkeeper:** Sue Kozakiewicz
Social Media Manager: Hannah Holzer (Twitter) **Intern:** Michael D. Wong
Send letters (not more than 350 words) to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.
The Sunset Beacon Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.

THANK YOU TO
OUR GENEROUS PATRONS

Anonymous, Robert Cherney, DeeDee Hunt/Hunt and Gather, Sarah and Frank Joost, Chris Keane, David Mana, Bill Moffat Jr. and Loretta Roddy

Sign up to be a Sunset Beacon patron.

https://www.patreon.com/SunsetBeacon

Find an archive of Kinen Carvala's "Looking Back" columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Presidio Opens Newly Renovated Supportive Housing for Veterans

By Linda Badger

For many, it would be a dream come true to live in the Presidio.

For 108 of our City's previously homeless veterans living at the Presidio's Veterans Academy, this dream has come true.

On May 11, the Veterans Academy, operated by Swords to Plowshares since 2000, celebrated the completion of a much needed, "transformational" renovation project, which began in 2016. The renovated Veterans Academy has been renamed the Jon W. Paulson Veterans' Community, honoring a longtime supporter and San Francisco veteran who died of complications from exposure to Agent Orange.

The Jon W. Paulson Veterans' Community provides a permanent affordable and supportive home to older veterans allowing them to "age in place."

When Swords to Plowshares established the Veterans Academy in 2000, it was the first permanent supportive housing dedicated to veterans in the country. Since that time, others have emulated the model, recognizing that elderly, disabled or homeless vets need homes rather than temporary, transitional housing.

Three quarters of the residents at the Jon W. Paulson Veterans Community are over age 55, and more than half suffer from three or more disabilities associated with their military service or homelessness.

"Many of our residents were living on the streets or in blighted areas of San Francisco," said Colleen Murakami, chief development officer for Swords to Plowshares. "Having the opportunity to build a home in a peaceful national park setting has provided residents who have histories of chronic homelessness, mental health issues and substance use the opportunity to heal."

Swords to Plowshares (a non-profit organization), along with the Department of Veterans Affairs, provides on-site services, including case management, counseling, income assistance, communal meals, support groups and social activities. The residents take advantage of their beautiful surroundings, organizing outdoor yoga and walking groups.

Located in the Presidio's former nurses' barracks, the community consists of two three-story buildings, which until now, had no elevators. For years, disabled residents struggled with the stairs, limiting their access to services and increasing their isolation. Thanks to newly installed elevators, residents can move within the community to socialize and take advantage of the services offered. Outside, the community is surrounded by accessible paths and ramps, and is very near to the Presidio's new Tunnel Tops Park.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's PIT (Point in Time) Count indicates that progress is being made in sheltering our homeless veterans. From 2019 to 2022, the number of homeless veterans in San Francisco remained flat at approximately 600, but the percentage of these individuals likely to be sheltered rose from just 19% in 2019 to 33% in 2022. Swords to Plowshares currently houses approximately 500 formerly homeless veterans in six facilities. Unfortunately, it estimates that 350 veterans remain on the streets in San Francisco.

The average income of veterans living in permanent supportive housing managed by Swords to Plowshares is about $1,100 per month, so even if they could live on their own, it would be a significant challenge for them to find affordable housing in San Francisco. The community's 108 single-occupancy units are the only "affordable housing" located in the Presidio.

Jon W. Paulson Veterans Community "affordable housing" facility in the Presidio. *Photo by Katie Etti.*

After experiencing the nightmares of war, trauma and homelessness, our veterans living in the newly appointed Jon W. Paulson Veterans' Community will hopefully find peace in the beauty of the Presidio.

For those who don't qualify for supportive housing and want to live the dream of residing in one of the historic brick mansions in the Presidio, the bidding starts at $18,500 a month. The Presidio Trust rents apartments and houses at market rate to its 3,000 residents, noting that this income is essential to operate and maintain the Presidio as a public park.

For information about how to help homeless veterans, contact Colleen Murakami and her team at development@stp-sf.org.

Find us on Facebook: SF Sunset Beacon

From the Editor

Michael Durand

Labor of Love

The first part of this month's column is directed to our generous readers who sent us a payment to help out with our "Nourish Your Neighborhood Newspaper" (N3) campaign.

I want you to know how inspiring it is to know you have our back and that you support our labor of love. Your generosity and community spirit is sincerely appreciated.

Your donation went to good use. Instead of cutting back to 12-page papers, your donation let us produce 16-page issues with a lot of great content, even though the ad volume went down.

Now that we have initiated our Patreon campaign (more on that in the second half of this column), we are producing some branded items for our new patrons.

I would like to share these products with those who donated to us during the N3 campaign. Please send me an email at Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com with a delivery address and I'll make sure you get the one-of-a kind merchandise that we'll be sharing with our new patrons. You can also call me at 415-706-6428.

The second part of my message was already published in the May issue, but I am repeating it here because we deliver the Sunset Beacon to about half of the district one month, the other half the next month.

But first, we have a list on our website of libraries, businesses and more where we leave stacks of our paper each month. If you don't get a copy one month, go to RichmondSunsetNews.com and click the link at the top that says "Sunset Beacon Locations" to see where you can pick one up.

Now to the repeated part of my column for those readers who might have missed last month's issue.

I am very excited to introduce our new Patreon account.

Patreon is like GoFundMe, but instead of donating one lump sum, patrons contribute a small amount every month to a creative cause.

Patreon is used by artists, photographers, musicians, writers and all types of creators to raise funds to keep the creativity flowing. An artist with generous patrons can work on their craft and fill the world with beauty, instead of working at a less-creative endeavor to help make ends meet.

When we put the word out last year that the ad-only model for local newspapers was barely working to pay the bills, we received many generous supporters who donated to our "Nourish Your Neighborhood Newspaper" campaign. Thank you all! We will be forever grateful for the outpouring of support.

We were especially touched by the notes we received telling us how much our newspaper is loved. So many readers said they look forward to getting the paper each month.

"I read every word of every issue, and have for many years," was just one of many heartfelt notes we received. Support like that truly keeps us going.

There are a lot of stories to tell, and a lot of good writers, photographers and editors who work together to let our readers know about our great neighborhood.

We hope you will consider signing up on our Patreon account to donate $5, $10 or more a month to help us continue this important work.

We thank you most sincerely. You really do inspire the work we do.

Your donation also helps us keep our advertising rates low. It is a struggle for owners to keep their small businesses afloat, and your donation will help us keep our rates reasonable for small businesses and organizations that need to spread the word about their services available to our community.

To find a link to our Patreon account, go to the home page at RichmondSunsetNews.com and click the first link, "Become a Patron to Support Your Neighborhood Newspaper."

Here is a URL, in case the QR code on page 2 is not something you're used to:

www.patreon.com/SunsetBeacon

Announcements Section

One of the truly great advertising opportunities for a small business on an even smaller budget, or an organization with limited funds, is our Announcements section.

For only $1 per word (20-word minimum), you can reach approximately 50,000 readers. Your announcement goes into both the Sunset Beacon and Richmond Review newspapers and on our website. Each month, 18,000 papers are distributed throughout the Sunset District, 18,000 copies of the Richmond Review go out to our neighbors to the north, and about 12,000 unique visitors go to our website.

I know it works because I use it for various reasons. Recently we advertised for summer interns. We have had several responses. What's even more encouraging than getting responses is getting inquiries from high school and college students. The younger generation still reads newspapers!

I hear over and over how much readers love holding a newspaper in their hands. Some people have had enough of the computers and smart phones.

So, you'll never know who will read your affordable announcements. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Yarn Bomber

I was recently visited by Kelly Low, a "yarn bomber" who is a massively creative producer of amazing knitting and crocheting projects. Kelly presented me with an extraordinarily unique gift. She took the time to plan out and knit together a series of yarn squares to spell out the names of our two newspapers – Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon – in braille.

Thank you very much, Kelly, for the thoughtful and absolutely beautiful work of art.

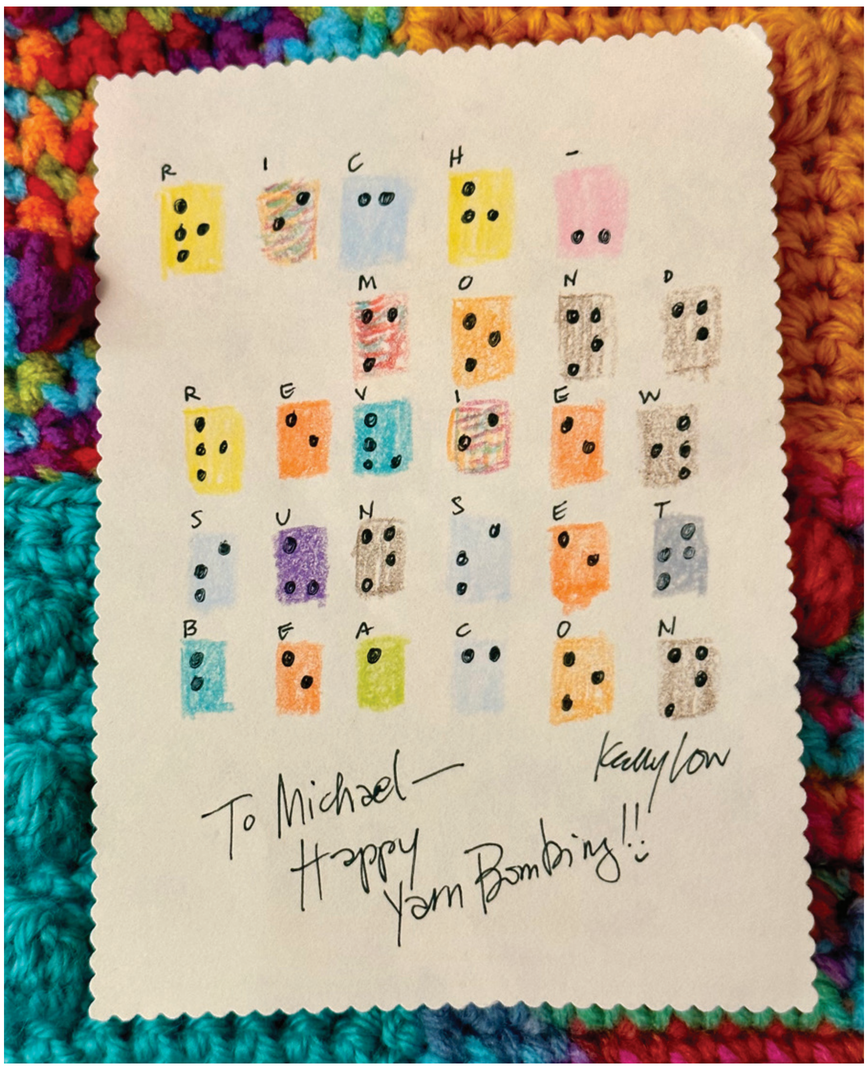
Learn more about the craft at Facebook: SF Richmond Yarn Buddies and Instagram: @SFRichmondYarnBuddies.

Thank you

I can't thank our supporters enough. We sincerely appreciate you.

If you're an avid reader and haven't yet supported your neighborhood newspaper, I hope you'll consider supporting our efforts.

Michael Durand is the editor and publisher of the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers and the RichmondSunsetNews.com website. He can be reached at Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com or 415-706-6428.



"Richmond Review" and "Sunset Beacon" in braille. ***Created by Kelly Low.***

The finished product. ***Yarn artwork by Kelly Low.***

Raffle **BINGO!** Beer Wine

Hosted by the Park Presidio-Sunset Lions Club

Sunday, June 25

St. Anne's Church • 850 Judah St.

Buffet Lunch 1 p.m. • Bingo 2 p.m.

$40 Includes lunch, soft drinks and 3 cards per game

For more information or to RSVP, email Paul at editor@sfrichmondreview.com

For advertising rates, call 415-706-6428

Real Estate

John M. Lee

Real Estate Cycles

We see cycles occurring all around us every day. Some cycles are long, others are short. Cycles also tend to repeat themselves.

For example, we have four seasons that rotate as a cycle. In economics we have expansion and recession – an economic boom is often followed by a recession. "Why?" you might ask.

There are various reasons, such as higher interest rates, bad business decisions and inflation, just to name a few. There are cycles in sports. The Warriors have had a good run, but they were a pretty bad team right before that. After this run, they might go back to mediocrity again. The stock market has cycles going from bull to bear in seemingly a matter of days to weeks.

The truth is, nobody can really predict when these cycles start and end, or oftentimes the reasons behind them. We can guess but can only can tell with certainty after each cycle passes.

And so it is with real estate, we operate in cycles. I often talk about the long real estate cycle and the annual cycle within a cycle.

Most people, when talking about San Francisco real estate, believe that it always goes up and up and every year prices go up some more. I can assure you that's not the case; people either have short term memory or they remember the up years more because there are more of them.

Our real estate cycles in San Francisco tend to be about 10 years long with seven years up and three-to-four years down. During the up years, we normally have three-to-four years with double digit appreciation. And folks, that's a 10% or more of a very big number! During the downturn, we normally experience a 10 to 15% drop in prices. So, the best real estate investment would be to buy right before the double-digit appreciations and sell before the down years.

What causes the ups and downs in real estate? It goes beyond supply and demand. Supply is always limited in San Francisco with many owners holding their properties and not having any real reason to sell. So, prices are driven mainly on the demand or buyer side. Factors such as economic expansion, stock market fluctuations, employment and interest rates play a big part in whether prices will go up or down. Currently, supply is limited because owners either bought or refinanced their properties at the low interest rates of the last few years and are reluctant to let that go.

During this last cycle, we have seen a longer up cycle than normal. Prices bottomed out in 2010 and have been going up every year since, fueled by historic low mortgage rates and the hi-tech market in this area until last year.

Different factors start the recession and the downward trend in real estate prices. The 1990 recession was caused by Iraq invading Kuwait and higher oil prices. The 2000 declines were attributed to the dotcom bust and startups going out of business. The 2010 crisis was caused by subprime loans and bad underwriting standards. This one will be because of higher interest rates.

Then there are shorter annual cycles within the long cycle. At the beginning of the year, we came out of the holiday season with very limited inventory. Owners do not like to be bothered with buyers going in and out of their homes during the holiday season and thus do not list their homes for sale or they take them off the market. Due to this, we have a supply shortage come January, and the homes that are on the market get snatched up fairly quickly.

The inventory normally starts coming onto the market after the Super Bowl weekend and we typically have a very robust spring selling season which usually results in some of the highest sales prices of the year. This lasts until the summer months and the market slows down again because many buyers, sellers and agents take vacations and do not conduct business.

The market picks up again after Labor Day in September and lasts until about a week before Thanksgiving. Then it slows down again and the cycle repeats itself again the following year.

However, I must caution that trying to time the market is dangerous. Real estate should be a long-term investment. Over the long term though, real estate in San Francisco has turned out to be a very good investment for most. If you are thinking about buying or selling real estate, I recommend that you consult with a good real estate agent, financial planner and tax consultant before making a decision.

John M. Lee is a broker with Compass specializing in the Richmond and Sunset districts. If you have any real estate questions, call him at 415-465-0505 or email at johnlee@isellsf.com. Find an archive of John M. Lee's columns at RichmondSunset-News.com.

Sunset Homes Sold in May*

Address	Bed	Bath	Sq. Ft.	Price
1331 34th Ave.	2	1	1,075	$1,100,000
2423 31st Ave.	2	1.5	1,155	1,230,000
2458 45th Ave.	3	2	995	1,250,000
2479 43rd Ave.	2	1	1,491	1,340,000
2447 41st Ave.	3	2	1,351	1,415,000
1562 46th Ave.	2	1	1,135	1,460,000
1722 25th Ave.	3	1	2,185	1,500,000
1647 38th Ave.	3	2	1,573	1,600,000
1859 18th Ave.	4	1.5	1,707	1,660,000
2601 17th Ave.	3	2	1,843	1,850,000
1686 30th Ave.	3	4	2,185	1,970,000
2655 15th Ave.	2	1.5	1,463	2,000,000
1455 Fifth Ave.	4	4	3,521	2,200,000
1501 35th Ave.	5	5.5	4,104	3,400,000

**Partial listing. Source: M.L.S.*

Ansel Adams

Continued from page 1

which opened on April 8 and runs through July 23, places dozens of Adams photos, both iconic and lesser-known images, alongside works of 23 contemporary photographers/artists (such as Mark Ruwedel, Lucas Foglia, Mark C. Klett and Berkeley's Richard Misrach), who focus on many of the same environmental "pressing issues," including drought, forest fires, mining, urban sprawl, global warming, water rights, protected places and indigenous land.

"My goal in doing this show was to offer a new perspective on Ansel Adams by placing his work into broader context and bringing the conversation forward in time," said Haas.

"Ansel Adams in Our Time," organized in five thematic sections – Capturing the View, Marketing the View, San Francisco: Becoming a Modernist, Adams in the American Southwest, and Picturing the National Parks – provide thought-provoking contrasts between photos by Adams and artists influenced by his work.

For example, in the American Southwest section, seeing Adams's 1933 photo, "Americana, Cigar Store Indian," depicts a life-size, wood-carved statue of a stereotypical representation of an indigenous man next to a magazine rack (with visible Time and Life covers) hung near a double self-portrait by San Francisco-born Will Wilson (Diné/Navajo) called, "How the West Is One" (2014). The Wilson piece shows the artist in two profile shots facing each other. It's a witty, in-your-face commentary on the cowboy-and-Indian depiction in westerns, such as the John Ford movie, "How the West Was Won."

"There's quite a juxtaposition with Will Wilson," said Sarah Mackay, assistant curator at the Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts at the Fine Art Museums of San Francisco. "He has dedicated his photographic practice to giving back agency to his Native American subjects."

Adams, a devoted conservationist, is most known for images showing the beauty of nature as unscathed by mankind. While, he wasn't religious, being in a setting like Yosemite was a spiritual experience to Adams. He wanted to capture what he saw, how it made him feel and share it with others.

Photos like, "The Tetons and Snake River" (1942) from Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, drew hordes of people to national parks. Ironically, Adams may have brought too much attention to these spaces, given the precarious position they are in today.

"These places are still glorious," Haas said. "But we will never experience them alone."

Adams, who grew up in the Sea Cliff neighborhood, was a poor student and dropped out of school. He was an exceptional musician and had plans to become a concert pianist. But once he fell in love with photography during one of his early trips to Yosemite as a teenager, he became obsessed with the camera.

His first museum exhibition was at the de Young in 1932 and he spent much of his life in San Francisco with his wife, Virginia (whom he met in Yosemite) and their two children. He was regarded as a modernist in his use of a large-format camera in the 1930s, which allowed him to capture longer distances and wider spaces. He also experimented with panchromatic film early in his seven-decade career, which provided sharper, more nuanced detail in his images.

In the later decades of his career, the Sierra Club activist shifted his focus to other settings, including several visits to Death Valley, which resulted in such masterful images as the almost abstract, "Sand Dunes, Sunrise, Death Valley National Monument" (1948).

He also became more drawn to gritty, urban subject matter. "Freeway Interchange, Los Angeles" (1967), which was really just another kind of landscape Adams wanted people to see, as he saw it.

"He always thought the photograph he made that day was the best he could do," Haas said. "Each one was better than the last."

"Ansel Adams in Our Time" will be at the de Young Museum through July 23. A tintype photography workshop with Will Wilson (who has photos in the exhibit) is scheduled on July 15, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Participants will be guided through a full demonstration and get to create their own tintype to take home. Learn more at famsf.org.

Ansel Easton Adams was born in 1902 in San Francisco's Fillmore District. In 1907, his family moved two miles west to a new home near the Sea Cliff neighborhood, just south of the Presidio Army Post. An exhibition of his work is currently at the de Young Museum. ***Photo by Ansel Adams (American, 1902–1984) "The Golden Gate Before the Bridge," 1932. Gelatin silver print courtesy of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. The Lane Collection, SC69746 © The Ansel Adams Publishing Rights Trust.***

Commentary

Quentin L. Kopp

Taxpayer Protection on State Ballot

A collection of quips includes a 1930s question: "If Congress can pay farmers not to raise crops, why can't we pay Congress not to raise taxes?"

Taxpayer protection will be on the state June 2024 ballot. Some of those significant protections include: 1) All new taxes enacted by the California Legislature must be voter-approved by a majority; 2) Two-thirds voter approval is required for all new local special tax increases; 3) Whether a new charge to taxpayers is a fee or tax must be clearly defined for voters; 4) New tax proposals must be truthfully defined and legislators must clearly identify for voters how revenue will be spent before any tax or fee takes effect.

Such initiative amends the California Constitution and overrides any conflicting court rulings based upon a disputed interpretation of the state constitution's current language, such as a 2017 State Supreme Court decision that some local taxes for special spending had passed, although obtaining less than the two-thirds voter approval required by Proposition 13. If voters approve by majority vote, many such existing taxes would need voter approval again by two-thirds of state voters. I can hardly wait. Watch City Hall try to defeat it just as it allows the S.F. Municipal Transportation Authority, which hasn't ever seen a tax it doesn't like (see, e.g., the Central Subway fiasco) to extend metered parking to Sundays and 10 p.m. on all weekdays and Saturday. As retired Chronicle columnist Leah Garchick remarked last month in a letter to the editor of "Comical," making parking "less available" "... will be a knife that makes another wound in our already bleeding downtown," and also neighborhood restaurants and stores.

One of the most despised levies on residents is the utility tax. In late April, San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Nancy Fineman ruled Menlo Park has been illegally collecting a 3.5% tax on electric, gas and water users and 2.5% on cable, wireless and telephone usage since 2017 because the City Council didn't renew it in 2016. Menlo Park collected $1.4 million from such taxes in 2022 and 2021. In San Francisco, I wrote a charter amendment and led the campaign for voter-approval on Nov. 3, 1987, while I was a state senator. The utility tax hasn't raised its ugly head since then.

The Tennessee House of Representatives in April expelled three members, all Democrats, for disrupting and stopping a House session by shouting and using bullhorns to condemn fellow members for not supporting strong gun-safety laws. U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), the majority leader of the U.S. Senate, thereafter requested the U.S. attorney general to investigate whether such expulsion violated the U.S. Constitution or federal law. The three miscreants halted all legislative business in the Tennessee House. Had any member in the California legislature done this in my 12 years as a state senator, he or she would've been removed from the chambers by our sergeant-at-arms, but Washington Democrats consider this peaceful, legal protest. As the Wall Street Journal commented on April 20: "Democrats have spent years presenting themselves as democracy's last defense. But when two of their own grab a bullhorn and bring the people's business to a halt, it's heroic if the cause is right. The problem is, someone will always believe the cause is right."

A Bay Area News Group column last month by an assistant professor of history at Hillsdale College, Michigan, notes that since 2004 the number of Americans identifying as political independents "has skyrocketed." Almost two-thirds of registered voters were then Democrats or Republicans. In May 2023, less than 50% are Democrats or Republicans. There are now more Independents than Ds and Rs. As a registered Independent since 1985 after 39 years of Democratic Party registration, I'm delighted even if the fearful California legislature and Gov. Jerry Brown changed the election code so others and I are deemed "No Party Preference" voters in order to minimize the language effect of being an independent candidate against them.

Speaking of candidacies, Michelle Obama, the Princeton and Harvard Law School graduate who received a Princeton scholarship and has been mentioned as a replacement candidate for Joe Biden, declared after her husband was elected president in November 2008 that it was the first time in her life, she was "proud of my country!" A wag in Bakersfield, Calif. commented in the Wall Street Journal on May 18: "I can hear Mrs. Obama's victory speech now: 'For the second time in my adult life, I am proud of my country.'"

Sunset resident Robert Guichard who led the successful ballot measure in 1980 to repeal district election of Board of Supervisors members, reports that a controlling Santa Monica legal case regarding to which the California Supreme Court granted review last year, will be argued on June 27. The Santa Monica City Council has refused to substitute district election of City Council members or at-large voting. A neighborhood association sued to force the Council to do so under the California Civic Rights. Both the Los Angeles Superior Court and Court of Appeal have rejected the Association's contention. If the California Supreme Court does so, too, expect Mr. Guichard and others to qualify an initiative next year restoring at-large election of our City Hall "beauties." I can't wait!

Expect also more corruption cases at City Hall this month or next, which remind me of one-time Democratic Congressman Adam Clayton Powell (1949-1971) when Republican Congressmembers accused him of corruption. Powell, who represented Harlem, responded: "I'm not doing anything that you guys aren't doing."

Do you remember when boys, not telephones, delivered the news? I do, but I'm probably older than any readers of this monthly excursion. As one smart aleck observed: "If you don't stand for something, you will likely fall for anything." That's a wrap.

Quentin Kopp is a former San Francisco supervisor, state senator, SF Ethics Commission member, president of the California High Speed Rail Authority governing board and retired Superior Court judge.

Liz Hanowsky Law

An SF native here to serve your legal needs

Estate Planning, Real Property, Landlord-Tenant & More

415.484.8339 www.hanowskyesq.com

HONESTY AND INTEGRITY
REAL ESTATE DONE RIGHT!

PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE FOR OVER TWO DECADES
OUR REPUTATION = RESULTS FOR YOU!

Call or Text Now | 415-244-5846
WeKnowSF.com

MIKE ACKERMAN 415.307.5850 mike@weknowsf.com DRE #01232037
OLIVER BURGELMAN 415.244.5846 oliver@weknowsf.com DRE #01388135

Mike & Oliver
VANGUARD PROPERTIES
OUTER AVENUES

MISSION: 2501 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94110 Lic. 01486075
Vanguard Properties believes this information to be correct but has not verified this information and assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy. Buyers should investigate these issues to their own satisfaction.

Look for Us on Social Media

Find us on Facebook:
SF Sunset Beacon

Follow us on Instagram @RichmondSunsetNews

Follow us on Twitter @RichmondSunset

www.RichmondSunsetNews.com

VOLUNTEER TODAY!
Make a Difference in the Lives of Many

The San Francisco Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is recruiting volunteers to visit and provide support to seniors and persons with disabilities living in long-term care facilities.

Bilingual in Cantonese a plus but not required.

To Learn More, Call (415) 751-9788

You can also **email us** or learn more **online:**
ombudsman@felton.org | felton.org/ombudsman

Ombudsman Long Term Care San Francisco
Felton Institute

For advertising rates, call 415-706-6428 or email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Arts enrichment and mentorship program for artists aged 15–18 is now seeking applications. Join us this summer to create your next dream project with support, resources and mentorship. Learn more at problemchildren.org.

BOOK AND BAKERY SALE

A large selection of used books, DVDs, CDs, videos and other entertainment will go on sale at the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 1750 29th Ave. (between Moraga and Noriega streets) on Friday and Saturday, June 23 and 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Hardbacks will go for $3 each, paperbacks for $1. Many treasures will be found among the stacks. Coffee and other refreshments will also be available. For information, go to IncarnationSF.org, email comebefed@aol.com or call 415-564-2324.

COMMENTARIES AND LETTERS

From the editor: All commentaries we publish are the opinions of the writers and should not be considered our editorial stance on issues. We strive to remain neutral and offer a balance of viewpoints. We invite readers who wish to express their opinions to send a letter to the editor to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Word limit for the newspaper is 350, for the website, 500. RichmondSunsetNews.com.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy June birthday to Art Bickford, Ralph and Myra Chapin, Reiko Chow, Roni Craig, Kyle C. Curry, Devin and Kirstin, Irina Doliner-Kelly, Jennifer Dove, Reganomics Dermudez, Vincent Edward, Yanina Gotsulsky, Douglas Gorney, William Haubenstein, Chris Kelly, John Kolb, Barbara Wilson Langstaff, Sydney Lue, Thomas Lue, Anne Oz, Brendan Pinder, Christina Sullivan, Michael Sullivan, Scoutmaster Nathan, William Ryan Nies, Vicki and Joyce, Dana Wong and Franklin Wong. *To add a name to the monthly birthday list, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Free.*

INNER SUNSET ART WALK

Join the Summer Solstice Inner Sunset Art Walk as a participating merchant or artist. The Art Walk covers most of inner Irving Street on Wednesday, June 21, 5-8 p.m. Learn more and sign up at HuntandGatherSF.com.

INTERNS WELCOME

The Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers offer unpaid summer internships to students looking for journalism experience and instruction. For more information, call 415-706-6428 or email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

PARKSIDE BRANCH LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

San Francisco Public Library presents Parkside Branch Library Open House at 1200 Taraval St. on Saturday, June 10, 2-5 p.m. The Parkside Branch Library's first open house in three years features events for the whole family! Meet firefighters with their fire truck. Relax to the soothing sounds of a string trio while enjoying button-making, coin purse painting and more crafts. Thrill to Drag Queen Story Hour featuring Honey Mahogany and face painting. Free. Learn more at sfpl.org/events/2023/06/10/celebration-parkside-branch-open-house. For more information, call 415-557-4400 or email sfplcpp@sfpl.org.

#NEVER BETTER ELDERS

Celebrate San Francisco's older adults at the Community Living Campaign's FREE event #NEVER BETTER ELDERS. Enjoy snacks and entertainment while learning about community resources and connections and receiving hands-on help at St. Anne of the Sunset, 850 Judah St., Sunday, June 11, 1–4 p.m. Free parking at St. Anne's on Funston Street. Accessible by public transportation: N-Judah, 6-Parnassus, 7-Haight, 44-O'Shaughnessy and the 43-Masonic. For more information, contact event@sfcomunityliving.org or call 415-821-1003.

OUTER SUNSET FARMERS MARKET AND MERCANTILE

Join us every Sunday at the Outer Sunset Farmers Market and Mercantile, where you can find fresh produce from local farmers and ranchers, enjoy delicious dishes from Outer Sunset eateries and discover unique finds from local makers and artisans. Every Sunday, find a revolving series of live performers, engaging activities and exhibitions at the ArtShip and fun zone! Our farmers market accepts WIC, EBT and Market Match! 37th Avenue at Ortega Street, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Go to sunsetmercantilesf.com or call 415-465-2475 for more details.

PHILANTHROPIST NEEDED

I am a senior lady who needs a place to live at a private residence in the west area of San Francisco. After many months of fruitless searching, I need help from a private philanthropist in order to move beyond this crisis. Having arthiritis, I don't nagivate many flights of stairs or hills. I use public transportation, live quietly, and have excellent references. Call 415-561-9275 if you or someone you know can provide me a home. Please help.

'PHOTOS OF THE MONTH' GALLERY ONLINE

Photographers are invited to submit three of their best photos for consideration to be published in the "Photos of the Month" gallery on RichmondSunsetNews.com. The website averages more than 20,000 views per month. Please submit photos as jpegs, 150 dpi, six inches wide. If you don't know how to size your photos, we can help. While there is no compenation for the submissions, we are planning on awarding a gift to the best photo of the month in the near future. Please submit on the 15th of each month. For more information, email Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com or call 415-706-6428.

JAMES J. RUSSO, CPA
Income Tax Preparation and Planning
ON EXTENSION FOR TAXES?
I can help you finish – I'm ready when you are.
Put my 30 years of experience to work for you!
(I can help with back years, too.)
Call for quote. Prep by appointment or remote.
JamesJRusso@gmail.com / (415) 759-5086

REFUSE REFUSE CLEANUPS

Great Highway Park Cleanup, Sunday, June 11, 1–3 p.m. Details at mobilize.us/togethersf/event/448138/.
Central Sunset Cleanup, Saturday, June 17, 10 a.m.–noon, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/546732/.
Inner Sunset Cleanup, Saturday, June 24, 10 a.m.–noon, mobilize.us/togethersf/event/464169/.

SECONDHAND SATURDAYS

Come Check out Secondhand Saturdays and celebrate all things vintage, antique and secondhand. Presented by Sunset Mercantile every third Saturday of the month at Ortega Street and 32nd Avenue, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Shop local from more than 50 vintage vendors, makers and artisans that are some of the Bay Area's best. Enjoy live music, family friendly activities, food trucks, rotating monthly features and more! Visit sunsetmercantilesf.com/secondhand/ for more information.

STAMP COLLECTOR AND STAMP COLLECTIONS

Stamp collector is buying stamps and stamp collections. I am buying "older stamps" from the 1800s to 1930. American Philatelic Society member since 1986. Pictures are appreciated. Call or text message 415-533-0761.

THANK YOU!

Sincere thanks to the Sunset Beacon readers who generously donated to the Nourish Your Neighborhood Newspaper campaign. Your contribution will help keep us financially healthy. To donate, please visit our website to sign up for our Patreon campaign, send a check to: Sunset Beacon, P.O. Box 16035, SF, CA, 94116 or send via PayPal to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com. Thank you!

Announcements: $1 per word, 20-word minimum. Share birthdays, weddings, anniversaries, births, obituaries, graduations, sports highlights, business accomplishments, retirements, college admissions, etc.

FREE: Add a name to the monthly birthday list or submit free community events at no charge.

FREE: There is no charge for occasional announcements for small businesses celebrating an anniversary or other significant milestone or event. Send announcement to Editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Announcements will run in the Richmond Review and Sunset Beacon newspapers (36,000 copies) and on RichmondSunsetNews.com (more than 20,000 views per month). Ads must be pre-paid. Deadline: 20th of the month. Mail check to: P.O. Box 16035, S.F., CA 94116. Call 415-706-6428 or email editor@RichmondSunsetNews.com for more details.

Melissa Zhuo
Realtor® | DRE 02039357
melissazhuo@compass.com
compass.com/agents/melissa-zhuo
As a Sunset neighbor, I would love to help you with any of your real estate needs. Contact me today at 415-238-6087 or melissazhuo@compass.com.
I speak Cantonese, Mandarin and Spanish.
COMPASS

Assembly

Assemblymember Phil Ting

Transit's 'Fiscal Cliff'

Many of you rely on buses, trains and/or ferries to get to school, work and other destinations. But the crucial services they provide are in jeopardy because the agencies running them are facing a "fiscal cliff," – a situation in which declining fare revenue and the end of pandemic funding from the federal government could result in significant operational cuts. In addition, our Bay Area operators rely on fare box revenue to fund operations more than transit agencies in other regions such as Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas and Los Angeles.

Without outside assistance, the harm of reducing hours or frequency will be felt largely by lower-income Californians, who rely on public transit because they cannot afford a car, and commuters, including students. In fact, the San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency has already indicated service cuts could begin as early as this summer, cutting one line a month for the next 20 months to head off a deficit. They're also planning to extend parking meter hours to 10 p.m. Monday through Saturday, as well as adding Sundays, to generate revenue.

Transit agencies across nine counties in the Bay Area have asked for an additional allocation of $2.5 billion in state funding to cover them for several years. Even though the state faces a $32 billion deficit, as chair of the Assembly Budget Committee, I support helping out Muni, BART, SamTrans and others, but I don't want to hand over a blank check without major improvements, greater accountability and a plan towards fiscal stability.

I will be urging the transit operators to have a greater focus on you, the riders, in hopes to see more of you riding transit to work, shop and get around town. Too many people have told me they don't want to ride transit because they don't feel safe, or seats are not clean. Our operators need to improve safety and cleanliness.

Our region needs to help save public transit as well. While our state may be able to provide some temporary help, ultimately, our region will have to step up to permanently support our transit operators. We will need to support a revenue measure to support our operators should it come up in 2024 or 2026.

We have a few more weeks to craft a state budget amid a deficit year. Public transportation is crucial to a strong economy and for meeting our climate goals. I'll do everything possible to make sure we avoid the fiscal cliff, so that individuals without cars and commuters aren't left struggling with service cutbacks. But, at the same time, agencies must have a plan to sustain themselves, while also ensuring systems are safe and reliable.

Phil Ting represents the 19th Assembly District, which includes the west side of San Francisco along with the communities of Broadmoor, Colma and Daly City as well as part of South San Francisco. Find an archive of his columns at RichmondSunsetNews.com.

Commentary

Brian Quan

Envisioning a Better Neighborhood

This month I wanted to challenge myself to pick the most controversial topic on the west side: pickleball.

But then I realized I don't want readers coming after me with racquets, so I decided it was best to write about the next most controversial topic at the moment: 2700 Sloat Blvd., near the SF Zoo.

A lot of ink has already been spilled on this project over the past few years, but with the latest proposal for the location being a 50-story tower, I will delve a little deeper into the how and the why we've reached this point.

Over the past few years, the project proposal has grown in size and scope, but was reasonably code compliant – 12 to 13 stories within what zoning allowed. Since at least the '70s, the City has set the zoning for the lot at 100 feet (as well as some of the adjacent lots), likely assuming nothing of this size would be proposed while there were existing successful commercial businesses occupying the land.

With the California State Density Bonus Law, if the developer provides at least 15% means-tested affordable housing units, the developer is entitled a density bonus of up to 50%. (San Francisco's inclusionary housing program for projects greater than 25 units requires a fee to produce off-site units or on-site units already at a rate above 15%.) This would have merely pushed up the proposal height to around 18 stories. But the SF Planning Department requested more amenities and frontage than the developer is proposing, so they are allowed to meet those requirements by keeping their originally allowed units all massed within one tall tower.

While the "how" of the current proposal is likely to go through additional changes, I think it's worth examining the reasons we have such a contentious process around developing large housing projects like this and where we can hopefully find some common ground on improving the process to enhance our neighborhoods. Lost in the controversy around the design elements is that the project includes upwards of 100 affordable units. As the prices of most of the existing single-family homes on the west side continue to become increasingly out of reach, what other levers do we have as a community to bring that many affordable units for teachers, service workers, city employees, bus drivers, police and firefighters? It can be easy to lament that developers are only in it for the profit and that they won't build affordable units, but when we force a community process that can stretch into years, aren't we just delaying the affordable housing we want to see in the neighborhood?

The last time most of the west side's housing stock was considered deeply affordable was during the '70s, just before the widespread downzoning of the City when small developers were able to use FHA loans to convert wide swaths of the previously existing small cottages and Victorians into "Richmond Specials."

While the seemingly existential dread in the City right now is a downtown doom loop, perhaps the west side has been caught in its own decades-long slower version of a doom loop that has only become acutely painful as the affordability of housing has pushed out families and trapped seniors in aging buildings with rising maintenance costs. Our current $1 million-plus single-family homes, duplexes and condos did not start out at these prices but grew slowly over time. Like the tale of the frog in slowly heated water, we did not realize action was needed before conditions became boiling and it was too late to escape.

By fostering a permitting process for people to oppose and delay projects from as small as converting single-family homes to fourplexes, we've squeezed out the small developers that would have helped build the gentle density that wouldn't create drastic change, like a 50-story residential tower.

Developers are now caught between massive multi-unit projects and "flipping" dilapidated single-family homes since renovations are less onerous than a teardown and rebuild. The City tried to address this gap with its HOME-SF Program, but perhaps it's time to also revisit Supervisor Joel Engardio's previous housing proposal of Dom-i-city (https://dom-i-city.org/) if residents are opposed to residential towers as a means for bringing affordable housing units to the west side.

Additionally, instead of our City's need for having neighbors constantly weigh in and add months or more to the timelines for projects, now's the time to consider alternative means of community engagement. Citizen Assemblies (citizensassemblies.org) could be a model for which consensus can be reached much quicker on the goal of bringing back affordable housing to the west side of the City. By moving the starting point of decision making to a place where we agree first and decide between possible solutions, we can ideally shift away from our current oppositional mindset.

Brian Quan is a Richmond District native, co-leader of Grow the Richmond, president of the Chinese American Democratic Club, member of the Park Presidio-Sunset Lions Club and leads a monthly Refuse Refuse S.F. street clean-up.

From a Reader

Jonah Raskin

Mural Restoration at Other Avenues

Annice Jacoby, the author of the book, "Street Art San Francisco," says that there are three kinds of murals in the City: those that are provocative, those that are protective and those that are playful.

If that's so – and it seems to be true – then the mural on the wall outside Other Avenues (OA) is mostly protective. The worker owned and operated co-op on Judah Street serves the Sunset community and beyond. The extended community turned out on May 4, a Thursday, to celebrate the mural that was first created in 1995 and that was restored in 2014. By 2023, it was time for more restoration.

Dozens of shoppers, fans of the store and former OA workers and guiding lights, such as Shanta Nimbark Sacharoff, enjoyed beverages and snacks, heard brief talks and looked up with admiration at the mural that is divided into three parts: the land (unceded Ohlone territory), the crops in the ground and the ocean with its many sea creatures.

The colors are bright, the figures in the agricultural fields are heroic and the crops are luscious. Peter Munks played the guitar and sang folk songs by Phil Ochs and Woody Guthrie, including "Pastures of Plenty," which honors workers, refugees and migrants.

Donations from the community added up to more than $3,000 which helped buy the paint, brushes and supplies. It took a village to create the mural, though one of the prime movers was Carlo Grunfeld, who teaches art and is mostly a water colorist.

The Other Avenues mural shows crops, farm workers and sea creatures. *Photo by Alex Rigler.*

"To be a muralist, you have to work in acrylic, think big and colorful and also it helps to have a historical connection," Grunfeld said. Born in St. Mary's Hospital and now 62, he grew up in the Sunset, specifically in the South Sunset, and thought of Taraval as "his hood."

Carlo said that he doesn't expect to work on another mural "unless they

Continued on page 9

Police Blotter

Brandishing a Weapon: Funston Avenue and Taraval Street, April 28, 1:50 p.m.

The victim told officers they were walking on the sidewalk when the suspect suddenly approached, brandished a knife and pointed it at the victim.

The suspect then fled the area.

Stay Away Order Violation: 2300 Block of Noriega Street, April 28, 3:23 p.m.

The victim observed the suspect approaching a store despite a court order prohibiting the suspect from being near the store.

Responding officers located the suspect, who was in violation of the stay away order.

The suspect was arrested.

Possession of Stolen Property, Resisting Arrest: 1500 Block of Sloat Boulevard, May 4, 12:34 p.m.

An officer responded to a report of a stolen vehicle.

The vehicle was located, and the officer attempted to detain the three suspects, however two suspects fled the area in the stolen vehicle while the third fled on foot.

The officer sustained a minor injury during the incident.

Robbery: 2000 Block of Irving Street, May 5, 2:55 p.m.

The victim, a bank employee, said they were working when the suspect walked up and handed them a note that demanded money.

The suspect then fled the bank with the money.

Stolen Vehicle: 2600 Block of Sloat Boulevard, May 5, 3:30 p.m.

The witness, an SFPD ambassador, observed the suspect staring at a store's tip jar and harassing nearby people.

The suspect then entered a vehicle and fidgeted with the driver's area, as if they were unfamiliar with the vehicle, before finally starting it and driving away.

Responding officers located the vehicle and detained the suspect.

A computer check revealed the vehicle had been reported as stolen.

After further investigation, the suspect was arrested.

Robbery: 2000 Block of Irving Street, May 9, 3:26 p.m.

The suspect, who had already robbed multiple banks earlier in the day, walked into a third bank and demanded money using a note.

The suspect then fled the area on a bicycle with the stolen money.

The suspect was located inside Golden Gate Park and evaded officers before being detained and on Geary Boulevard.

After further investigation, the suspect was arrested on multiple bank robbery charges.

Violation of Court Order: 2300 Block of Noriega Street, May 11, 11:19 a.m.

The victim, a grocery store employee, told officers the suspect returned to the store despite having been previously arrested for violating a stay away order.

The suspect then immediately fled the area.

Traffic Violation, Suspended Driver's License: Kirkham Street and 17th Avenue, May 12, 11:44 p.m.

An officer was on patrol when they observed a vehicle failing to stop at a red light.

The officer conducted a traffic stop and a conducted a computer check on the driver, which revealed a suspended license.

The driver was cited.

Robbery: 2300 Block of Irving Street, May 16, 12:25 p.m.

The victim told officers the suspect walked by them and snatched the victim's checkbook, which also contained currency, out of the victim's hands.

The suspect then walked away from the victim.

The victim stated that their fingers were injured during the incident.

Shoplifting, Violation of Court Order: 2300 Block of Noriega Street, May 22, 8:31 a.m.

Officers responded to a report of a shoplifter.

Store employees said the suspect entered the store, despite having a court order prohibiting the suspect from approaching the business.

They said the suspect selected multiple items of merchandise before exiting with the stolen items.

Responding officers located the suspect. After further investigation, the suspect was arrested.

Indecent Exposure: Unit Block of West Portal Avenue, May 24, 1:48 p.m.

The victim reported that the suspect lowered his pants and exposed himself in public.

Responding officers located and cited the suspect before the suspect was transported to a hospital for a mental health evaluation.

Battery: 28th Avenue and Irving Street, May 24, 8:26 a.m.

The victim said they were crossing the street when they were almost hit by a vehicle. The victim threw their coffee cup at the vehicle.

The suspect then exited the vehicle and threw the cup back at the victim before slapping the victim's face.

After a brief struggle with the victim, the suspect left the area in their vehicle.

Traffic Violation, No Driver's License: 18th Avenue and Ulloa Street, May 24, 9:52 p.m.

Officers were on patrol when they observed a vehicle failing to stop at a stop sign.

The officers conducted a traffic stop and a computer check on the driver revealed that they had never been issued a driver's license.

The driver was cited.

Robbery: 46th Avenue and Quintara Street, May 29, 1:39 p.m.

The victim, a juvenile, said they were at the corner and waiting for a bus when the first suspect approached and demanded the victim's cell phone.

The victim backed away from the suspect and fell when the second suspect also attempted to take the phone away.

A brief struggle ensued before the suspects fled the area without the victim's phone.

Robbery: 1900 Block of 19th Avenue, May 31, 3:37 p.m.

The victim, a store employee, said the suspect walked up and demanded pharmaceutical drugs while holding a knife. The suspect then left the area with the medication.

Brandishing a Weapon: 2200 Block of Taraval Street, June 1, 4:23 p.m.

The victim, who was managing a deli and liquor store, told officers the suspect was in the store looking for someone. The victim told the suspect that they did not know who the person was.

The suspect responded angrily and brandished a knife before leaving. The victim called the police.

Mural

Continued from page 8

force me." Over the years, he has had his hands full creating, restoring and protecting the OA mural which has taken a beating from the sun, wind, sand and salt in the air.

Others who worked on the mural include: Fernando Garcia, Jeffrey Wong, Claudia Mansoory, Stephanie Dodaro, Carlo Grunell, Paola Reyes Melendez, Suzanne Ritger, and Anne Marie Hultgren. At the May 4 celebration, one longtime shopper and a dedicated vegan said: "It makes a big difference to come to a store that appreciates art and that makes art a significant part of the picture. I love the OA mural."

Learn more about Other Avenues at otheravenues.coop.

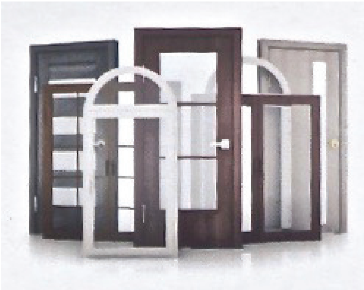
The whole mural photo taken from across Judah Street. ***Photo by Alex Rigler.***

Foxtail Hill Windows & Doors, Inc.

Vincent Keehan
Owner

1428 Yosemite Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94124

415-822-8494 (Tel)
415-822-8493 (Fax)
Foxtailhill.com



City Hall

Supervisor Joel Engardio

Why Tents Can't Be Removed

When a tent recently appeared near the curb on Sunset Boulevard, my office received many emails and calls from concerned residents. It was the first time they had seen a tent in that westside area, and they worried one tent would turn into 10 or even 100, like they see downtown.

Residents demanded the tent be removed immediately. They were upset when I explained why this wasn't possible due to a court injunction against removing tents in San Francisco.

Ideally, the City would offer shelter and services at a central location in lieu of letting people camp anywhere. We would give someone a choice: accept the shelter offered or have the tent removed.

The problem is, we don't have enough shelter for everyone in San Francisco who is unhoused on any given night. A judge has ruled that until the City offers enough shelter for everyone all at once, we aren't allowed to remove a single tent or enforce laws against public camping.

I agree with City Attorney David Chiu who said that "it defies logic to require that San Francisco have shelter for all persons experiencing homelessness before San Francisco may enforce these laws against any one person."

I support our city attorney's effort to vigorously fight this nonsensical ruling. I also understand the frustration residents are feeling.

I've heard many say it's unfair when a tent is allowed to block a sidewalk, yet homeowners get notices they must pay thousands of dollars to patch cracks in the sidewalk – or pay fines for decorative fences and benches that don't perfectly comply with city code.

It feels unfair when someone can indefinitely park and live in an RV anywhere they want while others get a ticket if their car overstays a two-hour parking limit by a few minutes.

It's important to note that it is not a crime to be homeless. People should not be suffering on our streets. We can offer shelter along with wrap-around services for unhoused people experiencing mental illness and drug addiction. It's the humane thing to do.

Yet the generosity and empathy of our City's residents does not mean we should hand over every public space to encampments. And if criminal activity happens in an encampment, it cannot be tolerated or normalized.

Court Injunction

How did we get here? Last fall, homelessness advocates sued the City, claiming tent removals violated the constitutional rights of unhoused people. U.S. Magistrate Judge Donna Ryu granted an injunction against removing tents while the case is litigated.

This means, if a tent dweller is in an especially problematic situation, we can't compel that person to move into a shelter even if a bed is available.

Our city attorney says, "Judge Ryu's order puts the City in an untenable situation, reaches beyond legal precedent and exacerbates our homelessness crisis."

Central to the case is the Eighth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits "cruel and unusual punishments." Homelessness advocates say it is cruel to forcibly remove tents if adequate shelter isn't available for the unhoused population.

Yet City Attorney Chiu has argued in his appeal that Judge Ryu "conflated an individual's Eighth Amendment right with a collective societal interest in shelter. As a practical matter, this means San Francisco can never enforce sit/sleep/lie laws on public property until it spends over $1.45 billion to construct thousands of new shelter beds. The district court's all-or-nothing rule undercuts San Francisco's ability to regulate health and safety in its public spaces, in the service of a legal standard that is untethered to any individual's Constitutional rights."

Different Rules for Different Cities

Other California cities are not restricted from removing tents the same way San Francisco is. Why not? It depends on which judge hears a case for a particular city. Different judges are interpreting the law differently.

An analysis by the Bay Area Council found that "Judge Ryu's order relies on a maximalist interpretation of the U.S. Ninth Circuit's decision in Martin v. Boise which held that homeless persons cannot be penalized for violating no-camping ordinances unless an offer of shelter is made and refused. By contrast, U.S. District Court Judge David Carter ruled in Los Angeles Alliance for Human Rights v. County of Los Angeles that the city can begin to enforce no camping ordinances once its shelter inventory meets 60% of the unsheltered homeless population based on research indicating 60% of unsheltered homeless residents would take the shelter if offered. The 60% threshold has since been used as a target in the cities of Sacramento, Riverside and at least two dozen other Southern California cities."

San Francisco is being forced to offer shelter to 100% of the homeless population before being able to remove tents when it's only 60% in other cities.

This conflict in judicial rulings is why San Francisco's city attorney is appealing to a higher court – and I will support taking the case to the Supreme Court if necessary.

Next Steps in the Case

City Attorney David Chiu requested a stay of the court injunction and has also filed an appeal. Decisions could come within months. If both of those efforts fail, a trial is set for next spring to fight the original lawsuit against removing tents.

There are circumstances where the City may be able to compel the removal of a tent even with the constraints of the injunction. Report to police any illicit activity you might see, like drug dealing, drug manufacturing, prostitution and dumping. Also report any harassing behavior.

Blocking a sidewalk or bus stop is technically illegal, but a tent can stay if there are 24 inches of pedestrian clearance around it. For example, the tent on Sunset Boulevard was touching Muni bus shelter, and police could only compel the inhabitant to move the tent two feet.

Homelessness advocates are well organized and let tent dwellers know their rights under the current injunction.

My office dispatches community ambassadors to tents and RVs to offer shelter and services. The ambassadors make repeat visits to build relationships with the inhabitants to convince them to take shelter. It doesn't always work but there have been successes.

In addition to the community ambassadors, I was able to secure funding for retired police officers to walk beats in the Sunset to help fill the gap of an extreme police officer shortage.

To find a long-term solution, I would like to turn the vast Cow Palace parking lot into a centralized space for tiny home cabins and RVs that can offer shelter, sanitation and behavioral health services. The goal is to offer enough shelter to satisfy the judge's order if we do not prevail on appeal to a higher court.

Contact the Judge

Do you want to express your view on Judge Ryu's decision?

Mailing address:
Honorable Donna Ryu
United States District Court, Northern District of California
1301 Clay St., Suite 400S
Oakland, CA 94612
Email: dmrcrd@cand.uscourts.gov (courtroom deputy)
Phone: 510-637-3639 (courtroom deputy)
Website: cand.uscourts.gov/judges/ryu-donna-m-dmr/

Another Issue Clogging Up Courts

In addition to the tent removal case, City Attorney Chiu is also "fighting off a barrage of claims of up to $10,000 each from homeless residents who accuse the city of illegally confiscating or destroying their belongings during street cleaning operations," according to a recent Chronicle report.

So far, more than 100 claims have been filed that homelessness advocates appear to be organizing. The alleged lost property includes rare Adidas and Ferragamo shoes worth thousands of dollars, gold jewelry, and laptop computers. When the City denies those claims and advocates appeal to small claims court, local judges have ruled for maximum damages.

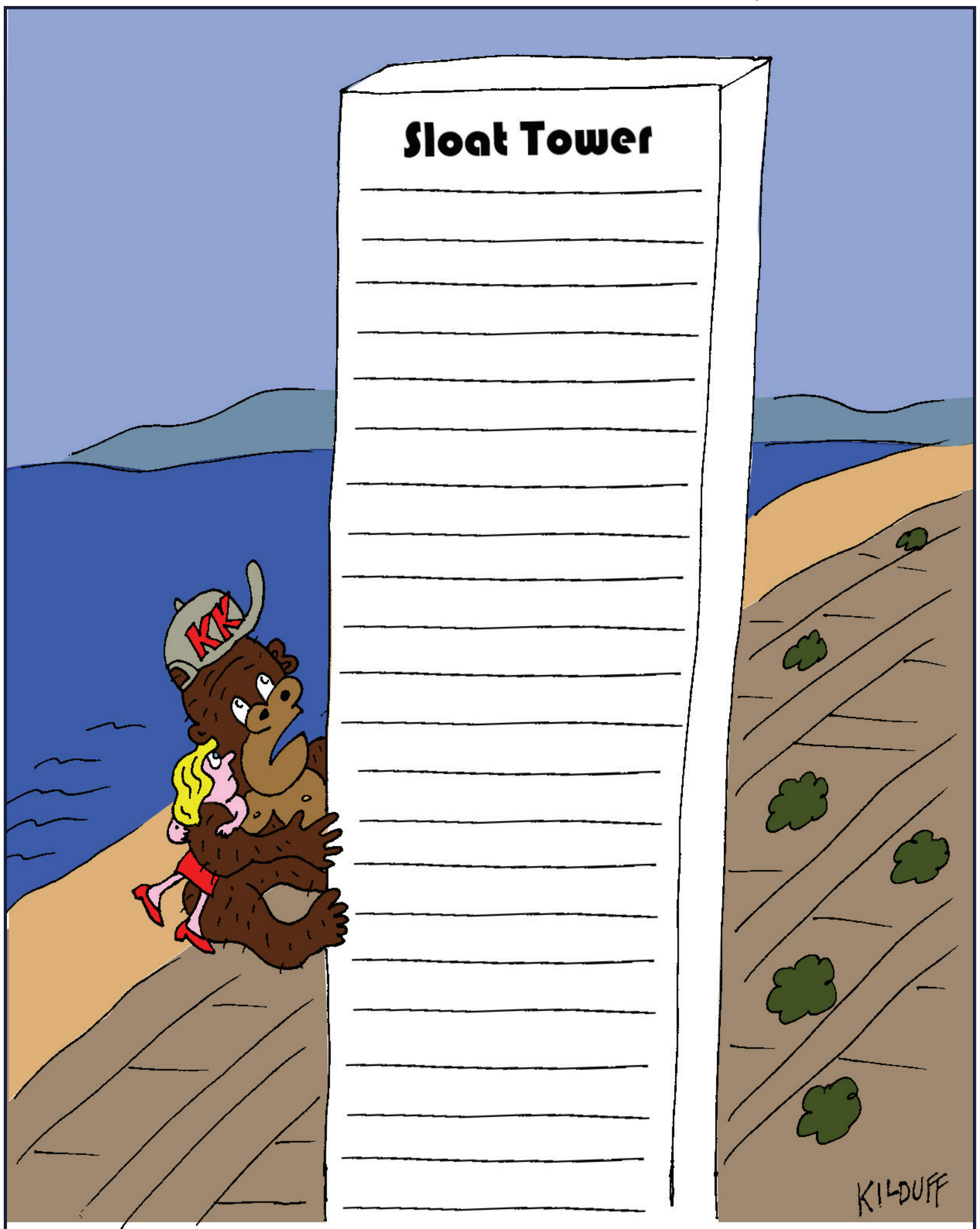
"This is a manipulation of the claims process," said City Attorney Chiu. "For many of these claims, there is no supporting evidence of lost property. We are now seeing sets of identical claims associated with different claimants. I do not believe these are genuine claims of property loss."

I agree with our city attorney when he says "The City is not an ATM for $10,000 checks. We have to defend our City."

Joel Engardio is the District 4 representative on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He can be reached at engardiostaff@sfgov.org.

Kilduff's Korner

by Paul Kilduff



"I don't think I'm really up for this."

‘The Tudors: Art and Majesty in Renaissance England’ at Legion of Honor

By Noma Faingold

Martin Chapman, curator in charge of European Decorative Arts and Sculpture at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco (FAMSF), describes England’s Tudor dynasty, which only ruled for three generations (1485 to 1603), as “ambitious, ruthless, visionary and utterly magnificent.”

Sounds intriguing enough to bring the art exhibit, “The Tudors: Art and Majesty in Renaissance England,” to San Francisco’s Legion of Honor, June 24 to Sept. 24.

It is the third U.S. stop, and the only museum on the West Coast to mount the show, following its debut at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City (Oct. 10, 2022-Jan. 8, 2023) and at the Cleveland Museum of Art (Feb. 26-May 14).

“It’s the first and only opportunity to see these magnificent works of art,” said Chapman. “You’ll probably never see them again.”

The Tudors used art as a way to present opulence and display power. Art also became a visual propaganda tool.

“It helped establish their authority,” Chapman said.

The exhibit has assembled paintings, precious jewels, rich tapestries and rare artifacts from around the world “to bring the Tudor dynasty vividly to life,” said Thomas P. Campbell, director and CEO of FAMSF.

It was Campbell’s idea to uniquely arrange the San Francisco exhibit in chronological order, by monarch (reflecting their tastes and personalities).

“It’s easier for people to understand. It also works best with the way our galleries are laid out,” Chapman said.

From King Henry VII’s seizing of the English throne in 1485, to the death of his granddaughter Queen Elizabeth I in 1603, the exhibition focuses on the evolution of the arts under the Tudors.

The Legion will have an additional 20 pieces in the show (exceeding the 90 displayed in Cleveland), including five works from the museum’s own collection. Chapman, who is originally from London and has been with FAMSF for 17 years, spent the last five years focused on bringing the Tudors exhibit here.

“That’s standard. But the pandemic did slow us down,” he said. “When you are dealing with loans from all over the world, it takes a lot of negotiation and diplomacy.”

Among the most impressive pieces is an imposing, full-length portrait of Henry VIII by German painter Hans Holbein the Younger (one of the most successful portraitists of the 16th century), borrowed from the collection at the National Gallery of Ancient Art in Palazzo Barberini, Rome. “It shows a measure of strength,” Chapman said. “He’s in a gorgeous costume with slashed sleeves and jeweled rings on his fingers. It’s an image of power and magnificence.”

Tapestries were an important art form in the Tudor court, especially under Henry VIII (who owned 2,500). They were the most expensive art at the time. His many palaces were furnished with the creations. The Legion will have three tapestries represented. Woven with gold and silver thread, the sophisticated, vibrantly colored art adorning palace walls, “glistened by candlelight at night,” said Chapman, who has organized numerous exhibitions at FAMSF, including “Marie-Antoinette and the Petite Trianon at Versailles” (2007-08) and “East Meets West: Jewels of the Maharajas from The AI Thani Collection” (2018-19).

Another House of Tudor portrait (an engraving) by Crispijn de Passe the Elder, is of Elizabeth I, known as the “Virgin Queen,” who reigned over England and Ireland from 1533 until her death in 1603.

“She is shown as an ageless beauty,” Chapman said. “The pearls on her dress symbolize purity.”

Campbell is counting on the American fascination with the Tudor dynasty to expand from movies – like, “Elizabeth” (1998) and its sequel, “Elizabeth: The Golden Age” (2007), and the Showtime series, “The Tudors” (2007-2010) – to a museum audience.

“Few may be aware of the distinctive art and visual propaganda that was central to the splendor and drama of the Tudor court,” Campbell said.

“The Tudors: Art and Majesty in Renaissance England” will be on view from June 24 through Sept. 24, at the Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave., San Francisco. Learn more at famsf.org/exhibitions/tudors.

Hans Holbein the Younger’s portrait of Henry VIII. *Image courtesy of Gallerie Nazionali di Arte Antica, Rome.*

Queen Elizabeth I. Artist: Crispijn de Passe the Elder, 1592 engraving. *Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.*

The Lewknor Armorial Table Carpet, Artist: Unidentified, 1564 Wool, silk (22-24 warps per inch, 7-9 per cm.) 92 3/4 x 197 in. (235.585 x 500.38 cm). *Courtesy of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.*

Patients Achieve up to 100% Relief From CHRONIC LOWER BACK AND NECK PAIN Without Drugs or Surgery

Are you in pain? Have you tried everything to alleviate your pain without success?

Have you been diagnosed with or feel like you have any of the following?:

- Herniated/Bulging Discs
- Chronic Lower Back or Neck Pain
- Sciatica
- Shooting Pain Down the Leg
- Pinched Nerves
- Numbness, Tingling or Weakness
- Shoulder, Knee or Foot Pain
- Muscle Spasm, Strains or Sprains

How has pain been treated in the past? Are drugs and shots the answer?

Until now, people have masked their pain by frequently taking prescription pain pills or by getting cortisone, epidural or steroid injections. This type of relief masks the cause, is temporary, and more often lead to even more pain, or worse yet, addiction to drugs.

How Pain is Now Being Treated

Until now, drugs and surgery were the ONLY options for back and neck pain. Today, non-surgical spinal decompression has emerged as a leading non-invasive, non-drug solution for your back and neck pain!

To learn more, call (415) 668-2888.

CityPainReliefCenter.com

Mention this ad for the New Patient Special: $49 Includes consultation, exam and first set of x-rays.

Dr. Terrena A. Miller, D.C. and Dr. Anthony Chau, D.C.

CITY SPINE CENTER
Advanced Non Surgical Pain Relief

DISC CENTERS of AMERICA SAN FRANCISCO

Need Help With Medicare?
Call Mary Fonte at 415-900-4355
I can help you:
- Understand your options
- Avoid penalties
- Enroll in a plan

Licensed Sales Agent #0M86311

Calling the above number will direct you to a licensed sales agent. Not affiliated or endorsed by the Federal Government or Federal Medicare program. We do not offer every plan available in your area. Any information we provide is limited to those plans we do offer in your area. Please contact Medicare.gov or 1-800-MEDICARE (TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048) to get information on all of your options.

RichmondSunsetNews.com

Golden Gate Nat'l Rec. Area, San Francisco's Natural Gem and National Treasure

By Lana Krouzian

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), established in 1972, was formed as part of a nationwide effort of the National Park Service (NPS) to include nature areas located within the vicinity of urban environments to bring nature closer to the people.

With the presence of the GGNRA, the spectacular scenery of San Francisco, with its bay, ocean, coastline, hills and sky, is joined into a magnificent preserve, accessible to residents and visitors from all over the world. According to the latest statistical count by NPS, GGNRA welcomes approximately 17 million visitors per year, one of the highest visitor rates in the country.

"We believe that people need parks and parks need people," said Frank Dean, first general superintendent of the GGNRA in 1972.

Connecting people with nature requires the cooperative efforts of NPS, interpretive teams, trail building and maintenance, habitat restoration, volunteer groups, historians, non-profit support and visitors themselves.

The current focus of NPS is the development of Fort Point Historic Site and the southern areas, which include the southern Presidio, Fort Funston, Lands End, Sutro sites, Ocean Beach strip and lands extending to southern San Mateo County.

Among the innovative programs initiated by NPS is the candlelight processions at Fort Point. Visitors gather at dusk inside the entranceway of the Fort Point Building. With each person carrying a lantern, a ranger accompanies the group through each level of the building, telling stories along the way.

On the roof, visitors enjoy views of the Golden Gate Bridge and the San Francisco Bay. Normally held November-March, these events start at dusk and last 90 minutes. Per visitor demand, the Candlelight Processions will continue into the summer, two times per month on Saturdays. Ranger Alejandro Cruz is a well-informed interpretive guide on-site.

Another innovative aspect is the Campfire Talks Program, held at the newly opened Tunnel Tops site in the Presidio. At a recent Campfire Talk, Ranger Xochitl Garibay tells the story of the "Lake Monster" of the Presidio and a story about a settler who learned indigenous medicine. The rich array of stories that belong to ranger lore illustrate abundantly researched local history and provide a valuable transmission of culture, both well-known and less known, for edification, enrichment and continuity into the future. As a knowledgeable interpreter, Garibay is a valuable contributor to the folklore legacy. Talks are held daily at 4 p.m., with a real fire in a fire ring, protected by iron grating.

Erick Cortes, lead ranger of the Interpretive Program, speaks of the importance of a program that allows for dialogue with the public. In this way, everyone has the chance to tell their story and to contribute to the cultural legacy.

Angel Garcia, supervisory ranger for Fort Point and the southern areas of the GGNRA, confirms that it is important to have history told in a fuller and broader way. The stories cover gaps and speak to everyone's experience, allowing people to form a deeper connection with the place they visit and give them moments of life which they will remember.

Garcia explains that their day starts at Fort Point, with a dispatch of rangers to various Presidio sites, including the Visitor's Center, Crissy Field – which houses their offices – and to field development sites, such as Fort Funston. Being somewhat short-staffed during the spring months, NPS has hired seasonal staff to undertake the expanded program planned for the summer.

The National Park Service is involved with the Parks Conservancy's Roving Ranger van program, a mobile library serving as a public information resource. Further, NPS is creating a calendar which will include events at the Tunnel Tops, Fort Point, Lands End, Cliff House and other sites on the Ocean Beach strip. The Lands End Lookout store, built in 2012 and managed by the Parks Conservancy, a non-profit group that supports NPS, sells books, maps, souvenirs, offers exhibits and is the starting point for walking tours.

Currently, discussions are being held between Garcia and Nicole Meldahl, executive director of the Western Neighborhoods Project (WNP), on ways in which NPS and WNP will collaborate on exhibits and interpretive talks. The Western Neighborhoods Project works to collect artifacts relating to the history of the Ocean Beach strip, which includes the Cliff House, Playland at the Beach and other sites of historical value. The nonprofit also serves as a rich resource for photo archives of San Francisco's history.

In addition to the expansion of the interpretive program, Cortes also foresees further habitat restoration. An avid volunteer group at Sutro Heights, comprised of four people, has been devotedly restoring natural habitat at the park, using native plants from the Presidio nursery, which makes available to the volunteers all the plants which they need to replenish the area. Among the native flora are coyote brush, lupine, wild strawberry, red flowering currant, coffee berry and sticky monkey flower. Fauna includes the great blue heron, owls, hawks and bluebirds.

Rangers Angel Garcia (left) and Erick Cortes discuss plans for Golden Gate National Recreation Area's southern region. ***Photo Courtesy of National Park Service staff.***

"It's better than therapy," said Michelle, a regular NPS volunteer. She, along with the three others, joined the volunteer group 2011.

"Simply being out there, physically active, being in nature and contributing to it, gives balance, harmony and fulfillment," she said.

Others in her group said their motivation was the feeling of responsibility toward the nature that supports us. For this small senior-aged group, volunteer landscaping allows them the chance to fulfill their gardening passion.

"The appreciation, the feedback and the results of this effort are what we would not get otherwise," Michelle said.

Tools and gloves are provided to volunteers by NPS. Activities consist of mulching, weeding and planting. Volunteers are given free reign for design and choice of plants. The one NPS landscape gardener at Sutro Heights has counted six trees that were broken during the recent windstorms in March. After securing safety around the trees, NPS will wait until after July to remove them, in respect for the current nesting season.

John Martini, author of "Sutro's Glass Palace," tells the remarkable history of Adolph Sutro, a German immigrant who earned his fortune from the Comstock silver mines in Nevada. Sutro's dream was to build a recreational structure that would be greater than the Roman Baths, which would include bathing pools, terraces for dining and entertainment, unusual plants and exhibits consisting of mummies, taxidermy and curiosities from all parts of the world.

The result of his dream was Sutro Baths, a place to swim, exercise, socialize, entertain and enjoy one's free time in a model of extravagance. Visitors could take a steam engine train from downtown San Francisco to the ocean location for five cents. For an inexpensive fee, a visitor could enter the baths, receive a bathing suit and towel, have access to a private changing room and a ticket that was pinned to their bathing suits to allow them to return to their lockers.

Outfits were the same for men and women, during the Victorian era: tank top, trunks and a skirt.

In addition to the extraordinary construction of the Baths structure itself, the foundational structure of the pools was a remarkable engineering phenomenon, utilizing the ocean waves and tides through a system of tunnels and conduits that brought in ocean water to be used in the pools.

In 1966, the closed Sutro Baths burned to the ground by an act of arson.

"I remember as a 15-year-old boy, being stuck in traffic along the Great Highway, hearing people around me saying that the Sutro Baths were burning," Martini said. "They knew it was arson and had a substantial suspect, but they could not prove it beyond a reasonable doubt."

Martini is a retired ranger, historian and consultant. His family members were native Californians since the mid-1800s.

For more information, go to nps.gov, parksconservancy.org, outsidelands.org and johnamartini.com.

View of California's coastline at San Francisco's western edge. ***Photo courtesy of National Park Service volunteers.***

SFWA Offers Supportive Space for Women Artists of Diverse Ethnicity and Experience

By Judith Kahn

San Francisco Women Artists (SFWA), founded in 1887 as the "Sketch Club," is a nonprofit arts organization in the Sunset District providing a supportive space for women artists of diverse ethnicity and experience.

Its belief in art's transformative potential encourages and mentors its members, seeking empowerment and expanded "representation of women in the arts."

The organization is proud of its lineage, and its many former members include artists Ruth Asawa, Dorr Bothwell, Imogen Cunningham, Eleanor Dickenson, Claire Falkenstein, Emmy Lou Packard, Dorothy Winslade and Ruth Bernhard.

As part of its mission, SFWA focuses on equitable practices that recognize the problematic history and status of women and people of color in our society and in the art world.

"Resolving deeply ingrained patterns and structures of inequality will take sustained attention and dedication, and to this end, SFWA invites and welcomes Bay Area artists of all genders and racial identities," its website states.

SFWA's Gallery first opened in Hayes Valley, then Presidio Heights, and since 2015, is housed in a newly remodeled building at 647 Irving St. Monthly themed competitions are held to select works to show in the gallery, juried by SF Bay Area art consultants, gallerists and art curators, with jurors resourced by Susan R. Kirshenbaum, exhibitions director. Each year, six shows are open to all Bay Area artists and 12 shows are available to SFWA members.

San Francisco Women Artists Gallery Director Janice Rumbaugh with member artist Bettina Schneider at a recent gallery show. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

The SFWA Artist Salon is a second exhibition space within the gallery which offers Bay Area artists an additional opportunity to exhibit their artwork by renting wall space for a one-month period. In the salon, artists are selected by a SFWA member curator or by an outside group, such as Art of the African Diaspora (AOTAD), which "supports artists of African descent … through representation, professional development and building a creative community," aligning it closely with SFWA's mission.

This is one example of how SFWA connects to the larger community, bringing focus to other nonprofits and illuminating the diverse artistic community in the Bay Area. In March of this year, the Artist's Salon hosted AOTAD in an exhibit by four Black Bay Area artists, and in January, Art with Elders (AWE) artists were represented in The Women of AWE.

A view from inside the SFWA gallery looking out toward Irving Street in the Inner Sunset. *Courtesy photo.*

Janice Rumbaugh, gallery director since 2005, is passionate about nonprofit organizations and the critical role they play in a community. She has a B.A. in Studio and Fine Art, with an emphasis in Conceptual Information Art from San Francisco State University.

In her final research project, Rumbaugh conducted her own exploration and documentation of Bay Area nonprofit arts groups. Her own art pushes the boundaries of traditional printmaking techniques, jewelry design, fiber/mixed media and digital art in a journey concerning "place, communities, and ancestors." Examples of her work can be seen on the SFWA website along with the work of many other member artists.

SFWA determines the success of its in-house and outreach programs by the increase in growth and diversity of the membership. Artists from ages 18-96 find themselves in a "caring community and a beautiful venue where their art may be exhibited."

SFWA artists conduct artist-in-action demonstrations that engage and educate the community in a variety of techniques in painting, sculpture, photography, encaustic art, glass art and jewelry making. Professional Development Workshops, which are open to the public, are offered throughout the year.

Its Student Intern Program partners with the Mayor's Youth Education and Employment Program (MYEEP) to facilitate job readiness training, work experience and opportunities for personal growth for San Francisco's youth. Interns train in-house for up to 20 hours per week in the hands-on experience of gallery dynamics, including small business operations, marketing and sales of art, and curating an exhibition of student artwork. Student interns carry out the installation and assist with promotion of the show, planning the reception and student artists' discussion of their work.

As of 2022, SFWA has become the Art Curator for San Francisco's UCSF National Center of Excellence in Women's Health. On floors three to seven at UCSF's 2356 Sutter St. location, Bay Area artists exhibit their work embodying a particular theme in the "Serenity" series, currently themed "Serenity: Dreaming." The selected theme and artwork are chosen to contribute an atmosphere of calm, healing and uplift to patients and staff. Exhibits change three times each year. The opening reception for "Dreaming" will be Wednesday, June 14, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and the public is invited to attend.

From the SFWA website, its perspective on art as a tool for wellness is explained.

"With the understanding that wellness is a holistic ideal, we embrace the transformative power of art as a core belief of SFWA. Art inspires, produces profound insights and can serve as a healing force."

A member of Inner Sunset Merchants Association (ISMA), SFWA hosts meetings of the neighborhood nonprofit.

SFWA is funded by foundations, sponsors and individuals, as well as the California Art Council, California Relief Grant, SF Grants for the Arts, Neighborhood Arts Collaborative and the Voluntary Arts Contribution Fund.

For June, SFWA presents Bay Area artists in two exhibitions, "Black, White, and Shades Between," juried by Emebet B. Korn, founder and director at Desta Gallery, Mill Valley. In the Artist Salon, Pride Month is celebrated with "Art of Pride – Moving Forward," juried by Marti McKee, artist and activist.

SFWA welcomes the public to the exhibition spaces at 647 Irving St. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information, visit SFWA's website at sfwomenartists.org or call 415-566-8550.

'Then and Now': Sixth Avenue and Judah Street

Left: Sixth Avenue looking north from Judah Street toward Golden Gate Park. A 36-inch water main from Laguna Honda was being installed in the spring of 1926. The temporary bridges allowed autos access to garages on the west side of the street. *Photo courtesy of a private collector/Western Neighborhoods Project/OpenSFHistory.* Right: The same view 97 years later shows what a big difference trees make in a neighborhood. Photo taken on June 3, 2023. *Photo by Michael Durand.*

Western Neighborhoods Project: 'Does Anyone Want a Totem Pole?'

By Erin Bank

Towering 58 feet above Point Lobos Avenue, just south of the building that housed the former Cliff House restaurant, a weather-beaten totem pole stands sentinel over the waves crashing onto Seal Rocks below.

The totem pole is usually not the reason people come to San Francisco's west side, but if Nicole Meldahl, executive director of the Western Neighborhoods Project (WNP), has her way, it could serve as a beacon for the history of the area.

People have been drawn to the northern reaches of Ocean Beach for myriad reasons over time. The Cliff House building has been there, in one form or another – punctuated by multiple fires – since 1863. The Sutro Baths, still visible in ruins, opened in 1896 but was eventually demolished in 1966. The namesake of the baths, Adolph Sutro, bought the Cliff House in 1881 and lived in the cliffs above, on an estate and gardens that slowly declined until the late 1930s before becoming a park. And of course, there is the landscape itself: Point Lobos and Lands End drop into the ocean over rugged cliffs, perfect for whale watching, birding and sunset viewing.

In the 1930s and onward, many of the reasons people visited this part of the City, still bordered by dunes and dirt roads, had to do with George Whitney. In 1926, he and his brother took over management of the collection of amusement rides that would become Playland at the Beach. Whitney bought the Cliff House in 1937, and quickly built up the surrounding area.

The totem pole next to the Cliff House in this 1966 photo has been a fixture at this popular attraction for tourists and locals since the 1940s. It has been moved, dismantled and faded, but still stands in this location. ***Photo courtesy of a private collector/Western Neighborhoods Project/OpenSFHistory.***

Soon, concessions including the "World's Largest Gift Shop" and the Camera Obscura, which still stands today, were constructed.

"He made the west side a destination place," Meldahl said.

In 1948, Whitney commissioned a totem pole from artist Chief Mathias Joe Capilano from the Squamish Nation in British Columbia. The original totem pole, which was carved to represent members of the Whitney family, was erected just north of the Cliff House. At some point in the 1950s, the totem pole was broken into two pieces, both of which were relocated to the other side of the Cliff House. The lower piece somewhat mysteriously disappeared in 2000, but the other piece remains in the same location. Its paint is faded, but the multi-colored characters extend into the sky, teeth bared and eyes bulging.

By the 1970s, however, Playland and the Sutro Baths had been demolished. The National Park Service (NPS) acquired the Cliff House in 1977 when it, and the surrounding land, became part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The first concessionaire of the NPS-owned Cliff House was the Hountalas family – Greek immigrants who started out as peanut vendors. They kept many artifacts from Playland and the Sutro Baths in the building and kept the totem pole on the site. They had several auctions over the years to clear up space, and most of the items went into private collections. The last of these auctions occurred in 2021, after the NPS did not renew its contract with the Hountalas family and closed the Cliff House restaurant.

The Western Neighborhoods Project, a local nonprofit dedicated to the history of western San Francisco, was ready. It raised more than $150,000 to preserve as many items as it could, including the totem pole. The problem is, they do not own the land on which it stands.

Following the auction, the WNP used the vacant Cliff House building as a temporary museum to exhibit the pieces, then moved everything to its office on Balboa Street. Everything, that is, except the totem pole.

Although Meldahl said NPS has been sympathetic to the conundrum of moving a totem pole, they do want it gone.

"We got an eviction notice," she said.

She has been searching for a proper home. The trouble is, San Francisco doesn't have a single umbrella entity that is responsible for collecting, storing, and exhibiting local historical artifacts. This means many pieces sit in private collections and aren't always accessible to the general public. Meldahl and the WNP has essentially been going door to door to ask local arts and history groups, or even local businesses along the Great Highway, if they want a totem pole.

"They all respectfully declined," Meldahl said.

There is also the issue of the fact this is a piece of art from an Indigenous artist, albeit commissioned by a white person and from a member of a First Nation that did not call this region home. The WNP has reached out to the American Indian Cultural District to ensure any historical interpretation is done with sensitivity.

"This shouldn't be a pain point for anyone," Meldahl said.

Although the NPS initially said the piece didn't have historical value, Meldahl is hopeful that a new interpretive plan can be put into place – one that can center the history of the area on the totem pole.

It is also rumored that a new tenant for the building has been selected. Meldahl's vision is to include ways to highlight the role of indigenous peoples, the Whitney family, and the families like the Hountalases who ran concessions, in the history of the west side of San Francisco.

What can western residents do to help?

"Tell us (WNP) what you think is important," Meldahl said. "Also, does anyone want a totem pole?"

Laguna Honda

Continued from page 1

The CMS agreed to continue pausing patient transfers and discharges on Feb. 1, until May 19.

In its most recent letter, CMS offered to extend Medi-cal and Medicare payments to March 19, 2024, but with the caveat that "CMS will not consider any other amendments to the agreement or any further extensions."

The letter further stated that after the hospital requested another extension on May 8, they were cited for failing to ensure that one resident with a history of two suicide attempts had an adequate care plan to monitor the patient and provide adequate interventions to address "previous methods of attempting self harm."

Then the letter stated that the hospital "abated the immediate jeopardy on May 12, and has represented that it is attempting to enact an action plan to correct the regulatory violation."

"CMS initially endeavored to provide Laguna Honda with its decision on the second extension request by May 8, as Laguna Honda requested. Laguna Honda's immediate jeopardy violation, however, delayed CMS's decision on this subject while CMS waited to receive reasonable assurance from Laguna Honda that the facility's immediate jeopardy had been abated."

After receiving word of a third pause extension, Mayor London Breed tweeted "Laguna Honda Hospital is essential for taking care of some of our most vulnerable residents. We've been working (for) months with state and federal partners to ensure the long-term success of this hospital.

"I want to thank CMS for their partnership and for giving us time to continue our work to keep this hospital open," Breed wrote.

The hospital is in District 7. The supervisor for that district, Myrna Melgar, has been leading efforts to prevent patient transfers and keep the Medicaid and Medicare money coming.

"I am super relieved," Melgar said. "I think that after (U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier) Becerra came to Laguna Honda, we developed a relationship with him, gained some trust and I think he was blown away when he toured Laguna Honda.

"It didn't meet what he had in his mind about a failing assisted living facility," she said. "So I think that after his visit there was a marked change in the communication, the attitude and the cooperation with the (California) State Department of Public Health (DPH).

"And I also have to give kudos to the staff at Laguna Honda and the union because they busted their butts to do all of the things that we needed them to do … because they knew how much was at stake," Melgar said. "We still have a long way to go.

"But the more important part is that the families have some certainty. Can you imagine if your loved one was there and you're thinking, 'Oh my God, they might move my grandma and she might not be OK'? I mean that's just terrible."

At an SF Board of Supervisors meeting on May 9, the hospital's Interim CEO Roland Pickens explained that the settlement agreement requires CMS and the DPH to visit the hospital every 90 days and do a monitoring survey.

Roland said there have already been two such surveys and they expect another one sometime in May or June. They are hopeful they will have a successful third monitoring survey and will rely on the results of that survey to indicate that sufficient progress has been made and they should, at that point, consider submitting their application for recertification. He estimated that should happen sometime this summer.

Also at that meeting was Dr. Melanie Grossman, president of the Older Women's League San Francisco, claimed that the root cause of the current situation is systemic, regardless of hospital staff violations.

"Laguna Honda got into trouble because of the 'flow project' at San Francisco General. These patients were difficult to place and therefore they were sent to Laguna Honda," Grossman said. "Now Laguna Honda is in trouble and again, patients are very difficult to place.

"The City for years has allowed our institutions, our hospitals to close their skilled nursing beds slowly but surely. People who cared about the elderly objected but here we are … we have very few skilled nursing beds in the City.

Grossman emphasized the urgent need for skilled care.

"We have our parks. We have our libraries. We have wonderful things in San Francisco, and we should definitely have them," Grossman said. "But (skilled nursing beds) are for the oldest, the most vulnerable, the most impoverished people in the City who have no place else to go, many of whom are women. We cannot allow Laguna Honda to close."

ADVERTISING WORKS!
For rates, email:
Editor@Richmond
SunsetNews.com
or call: 415-706-6428

Quick Build

Continued from page 1

Most people supported speed cushions – humps in the middle of the block – to better manage vehicle speeding.

Another focus is intersection daylighting – the red curbs at intersections prohibiting a vehicle from parking and blocking that space, thus obstructing visibility – so drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians approaching an intersection will have a better view from all sides, Liang said.

"Another comment that we heard a lot during that first phase of community outreach was opposition to the Slow Streets in the Outer Sunset and traffic diversion as a tool," Liang explained. "We found out there was a lot of confusion among community members between the differences between a Slow Street and the proposed Neighborways.

"So, to quickly clarify, they are both preferred walking and biking routes, however, their approach to creating that facility are different."

Slow Streets incorporates traffic diversion at every intersection and implements vehicle access restrictions against cars from outside the neighborhood.

Neighborways offer a more "holistic traffic-calming lens," he said.

The agency removed all of the Slow Streets in the Outer Sunset last year and conducted an analysis to understand the traffic conditions of the streets that they are proposing for Neighborways. They went through the feedback that they heard during the initial outreach phase. Coupling that information with their analysis, they developed concept designs.

The criteria to choose Neighborways streets include that they each have an average daily volume of fewer than 3,000 vehicles, with 1,500 per day being ideal.

Daily vehicle averages for the first five streets they chose are 800 for Kirkham, 1,400 for Ortega, 900 each for both 41st and 34th avenues and 1,400 for Ortega.

Because the proposed Neighborways are "naturally meeting this criteria," Liang said they are not proposing traffic diversion on any of these streets.

The typical vehicle speed maximum is 25 mph, but the ideal threshold is 20 mph, Liang explained.

- Kirkham averages 23 mph.
- Ortega averages 23 mph.
- Vicente averages 24 mph.
- 41st Avenue averages 27 mph.
- 34th Avenue averages 30 mph.

Liang noted that vehicle speeds are higher than desired on most of the Sunset Neighborways streets.

The three methods Neighborways streets will use for dealing with traffic speeds primarily focus on speed cushions, intersection daylighting and "continental" crosswalks, which are thick, longitudinal stripes designating pedestrian crossing areas.

Pedestrians cross Lincoln Way toward the southern entrance to Golden Gate Park at 19th Avenue. *Photo by Thomas K. Pendergast.*

The agency is also proposing other methods at "target locations" along each of the five corridors, like traffic circles and raised crosswalks (essentially a speed hump combined with a crosswalk).

"All of which were basically chosen on a case-by-case basis at each location to address intersection safety," Liang said.

For Ortega, they are proposing to add 11 speed cushions.

Intersection daylighting is proposed at all intersections along the Neighborways, and existing daylighting paint will be refreshed.

They are also proposing a raised crosswalk across Ortega at 37th Avenue, next to A.P. Giannini Middle School.

A traffic circle at Ortega and 34th Avenue is under consideration as well.

Lincoln Way Quick-Build Project

Transportation Planner Jeffrey Banks explained to SHARP members that the Lincoln Quick-Build project will go along Lincoln Way from the Great Highway to Arguello Boulevard.

Lincoln Way is on the agency's High Injury Network, the 12% of City streets where 68% of serious traffic injuries and fatalities have occurred in the last five years. From 2017 to 2022, there were 25 collisions involving a pedestrian, with 144 overall collisions involving an injury, including one fatality.

Banks said 17% of reported incidents (25 collisions) occurred between pedestrians and vehicles, 19% of reported incidents (28 collisions) cite unsafe speeds as a primary factor in these collisions and 82% of reported incidents (119 collisions) occurred within 20 feet of an intersection.

Some of the "hotspots" for collisions on Lincoln Way are:

- The intersection with Crossover Drive and the pedestrian crossing from Martin Luther King Jr. and Transverse drives.
- The intersection with Chain of Lakes Drive.
- The intersections at Ninth Avenue and Kezar Drive.

Quick-Build projects are adjustable and reversible traffic safety improvements installed within months and are intended to be evaluated and reviewed within 24 months of construction.

"It does include paint, signs and signal timing changes that are lower-level improvements that can be done more quickly and can be removed or adjusted if they're not being as effective as we want them to be," Banks said.

The "paint and post" improvements include continental crosswalks, plus painted safety zones that wrap around sidewalk corners to make pedestrian crossing intersections more visible. They are often flanked by white plastic post delineators, plus refreshed road and curb paint.

A few seconds will also be added to the traffic signals cycles allowing more time for pedestrians to cross.

Left-turn safety treatments consist of installing waist-high vertical delineator posts, small rubber speed bumps, and paint to create center lane lines with painted safety zones to encourage slower, wider left turns and increase drivers' awareness of other road users.

"The intention is to slow the left-turning vehicle," Banks said. "We've heard and we've analyzed this street and we see that the left turns off of Lincoln to get up into the neighborhoods are one area of conflict that's pretty consistent."

The size of signal lenses will be increased from 8 inches to 12 inches to improve visibility.

The speed limit on Lincoln Way is 30 mph.

"The State of California has a law that you can reduce the speed limits in certain conditions and Lincoln, at this time, does not qualify for any of those," Banks said.

The project team members are currently in the public outreach phase with detailed designs. This summer will be the environmental review and legislation phase. The implementation phase will be either this summer or in the fall.

For more information on the Sunset Neighborways project, go to sfmta.com/projects/sunset-neighborways.

For more information on the Lincoln Way Quick-Build project, go to: sfmta.com/projects/lincoln-way-quick-build-project.

Thanks to our advertisers and generous donors, this newspaper is FREE. Please support and thank the Sunset Beacon advertisers and consider donating. (call 415-706-6428 for details.)

Need Expert Professional
Real Estate Services?

Contact **John Lee** *today for a free consultation:*
(415) 465-0505 or johnlee@isellsf.com

As your Trusted Advisor
I will listen carefully to all your real estate needs and desires, and share with you my experience, perspective, and expertise.

As your Skilled Negotiator
I will help you explore all options. I will respect your confidentiality. I will steadfastly represent your best interests.

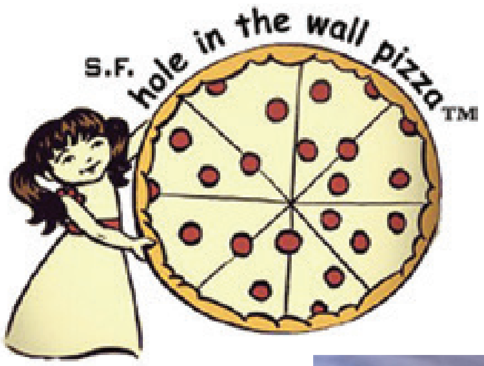
As your Expert Facilitator
I will assemble, coordinate, and assist your team of service providers. I will lead your transaction to a successful close.

Smart. Empathic. Experienced. Dedicated.

COMPASS

Serving as your local newspaper columnist for the past 25 years!
www.isellsf.com

SF Hole in the Wall Pizza



1825 Irving St.
(at 19th Ave.)
415-564-3900
info@sfhole.com
www.sfhole.com

Enjoy our great food indoors in our comfortable dining room or in our open-air parklet.

Watch sports on our big-screen TVs. What's better than a delicious pizza and a great game?

WE SERVE MORE THAN JUST DELICIOUS N.Y.-STYLE PIZZA!
Try our nutritious made-to-order pastas, hearty hamburgers and fries, tasty chicken wings, healthy salads and more.

BBB

We stay open LATE to serve you:
Mon. & Tues. 11am-11pm
Wed., Thu. & Sun. 11am-midnight
Fri. & Sat. 11am-1am
INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SEATING

Pizza by the Slice, Calzones, Wings, Hot Sandwiches, Burgers, Salads, plus Wine and 10 Types of Beer on Tap!
TRY OUR FRESH, MADE-TO-ORDER PASTA DISHES

For advertising information, call 415-706-6428